

Hunter of Nazi speaks up for Sakharov

By John Ezard
THE West's arch-Nazi hunter, Mr Simon Wiesenthal, paused yesterday in his search to pay tribute to the internally exiled Soviet dissident Dr Andrei Sakharov.

He called Sakharov "the greatest humanitarian of our time, a man who put away all the benefits of the Soviet system to be a mouthpiece for people under oppression."

By condemning the Nobel prizewinner and his wife to the provincial town of Gorki, the Soviet rulers had "hoped to isolate him, so that he would be forgotten. But they have failed."

Mr Wiesenthal, aged 76, was speaking at the Fifth International Sakharov Hearing, at which 300 delegates from many western countries gathered in a London conference hall to honour a man who is restricted to a flat with 50 square metres of space. The gatherings, held every two years, also aim to document Russian breaches of the 1975 Helsinki agreement on human rights.

Mr Wiesenthal urged western governments to renew pressure on the Soviet Union for compliance with the agreement. In exchange for promising to comply, the Soviet Union had benefited because their postwar borders in Europe had "become holy."

He added that he was speaking in reply to the Soviet newspaper *Izvestia*, which had reproached him for getting involved in "anti-Soviet activities" after a lifetime of trying to bring Nazi criminals to book. But he had been forced to become involved to help to ensure that dissidents were not forgotten.

Later in the hearing, Mr Wiesenthal came under another form of pressure. He had been reluctant to discuss his anti-Nazi work for fear that this would overshadow the hearing. But after persistent requests from press and television, he gave a short press conference about the Nazi war criminal Dr Josef Mengele.

He said it was necessary that Mengele, who is wanted for the murder of 400,000 Jews should be brought to trial to answer those who "deny the Holocaust and the death chamber."

He had "a big hope" that the West German Chancellor, Mr Kohl, would have "serious talks" with the Paraguayan president, Dr Stroessner, when the latter visits Bonn in July. Mengele has been living in Paraguay since his escape after the war.

But it was not known what name Mengele was using. The Paraguayan authorities could simply deny he was in their country. He understood that Mengele bought a new passport five years ago, valid until this year. He believed Mengele was still alive and in South America.

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Osprey watch

A pair of ospreys have arrived at their traditional site at Loch Garten nature reserve in the Scottish Highlands, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said yesterday. Volunteer teams are ready to mount a round-the-clock guard as soon as the birds lay eggs.

Animal rights expulsion case goes to court

By Sarah Bosley
The British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection is to take legal action to force three senior members of staff to comply with a decision of the union's executive obliging them to leave the union's offices.

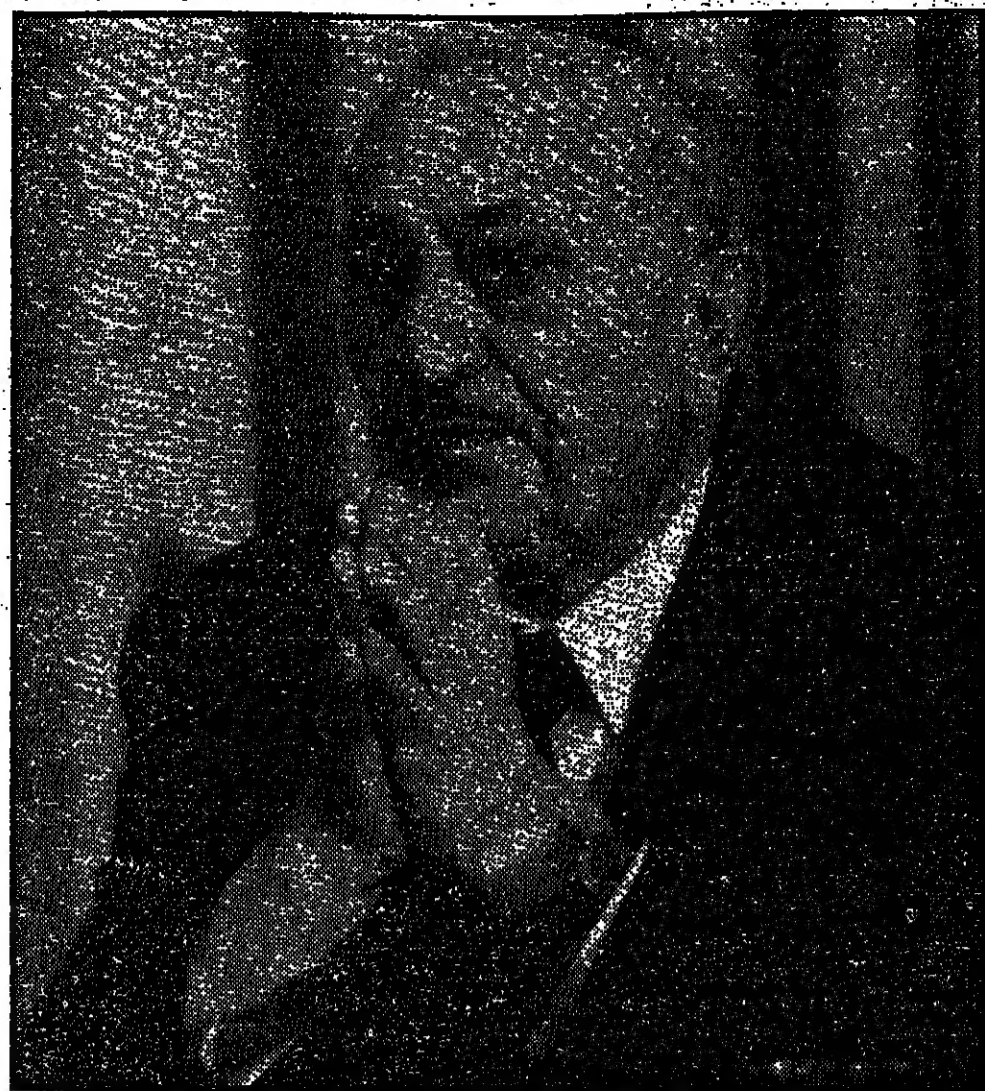
The executive intend to go to the High Court to get the staff out, while the staff plan to call an extraordinary general meeting of the BUAV, for which they have the necessary backing, to vote on the removal of the committee members who oppose them.

The staff members — the office manager, Ms Margaret Manzoni, the campaigns officer, Mr Kim Stallwood, and the group student co-ordinator, Mr Paddy Broughton are continuing to work in the union offices in Islington, north London, even though the executive committee has cut off the telephones.

They claim that the committee meeting on March 31 which ousted them was illegally convened and that their sackings were invalid. They say they have been given no reason for their dismissal which breaks their union agreement.

Ms Margaret House, an executive committee member, said that she and her colleagues who had voted to sack the three had been consulting a solicitor. "We are moving to the point where we shall have to get litigation in the High Court," she said.

She added that the sacking decision "was all to do with their work and nothing to do with policy." She claimed that the staff had been "in divisions over the heads of the



Simon Wiesenthal addressing the Sakharov hearing — Soviet rulers had hoped to isolate him, but they have failed.
Picture by Garry Weaser

Left MPs warned on handouts to party

By David McKie, Parliamentary Correspondent
The Labour chief whip, Mr Michael Cocks, has written to the party's general secretary, Mr Jim Mordimer, about large sums of money which he says some MPs are handing to their local parties. He said yesterday that there was a danger of people virtually "buying" seats.

Mr Cocks's attack was mainly targeted on leftwing MPs, some of whom regularly turn large parts of their parliamentary salaries over to the party as a matter of principle.

The Labour chief whip is an old antagonist of the left, especially after the attempts which have been made to turn him out of his seat at Bristol South — initially in favour of Tony Benn, whose neighbouring seat of Bristol South-east had been put in jeopardy by redistribution.

Mr Cocks said in a BBC radio interview that he was worried that some of his colleagues were unaware of the Hastings Agreement of 1933, which puts limits on the payments which a sponsoring union, MP or candidate may make to a local party.

He was also worried by the amounts of money which members of the European Parliament were able to hand over not just to an individual constituency party but to a whole district party.

Mr Cocks said the Hastings Agreement had been brought in to prevent abuses. "But we are now getting such blatant breaches of it that I think it is time that the NEC drew people's attention to it."

It was essential to have the agreement observed because those who poured money in would otherwise have an unfair advantage in selection and reselection contests.

selected committee. Feelings had been running high among some members of the committee over the Mobilisation for Laboratory Animal campaign, begun in 1983 by four animal rights groups, including the BUAV. The campaign was run by staff members of the four organisations, including Mr Stallwood and Ms Manzoni for the BUAV. It received £38,000 in funds from the BUAV last year, according to Ms House.

The committee, which eventually co-opted the honorary secretary, Mr Alan Cheeseman, on to the campaign committee as well, were unhappy about decisions being taken without reference to them. Ms House said that the BUAV was one of the biggest sources of funds for the campaign.

The sacked staff, however, insist that regular reports were made to the executive.

They further claim that the committee never passed a resolution that staff should not represent the BUAV on the mobilisation campaign. This was set up specifically to oppose the Government's White Paper on animal experiments, which it was felt would result in their increase.

Mr Cheeseman, who supports the sacked staff, said he regarded the meeting which voted to remove the three as improperly convened.

"Several of the people who have been attempting to sack staff have been knocking Mobilisation and saying they have no confidence in it. That's why we believe it should go to the membership at an EGM. We have a committee that does not reflect the membership," he said.

Staff back to work after blacking out programmes

BBC journalists warned strikes could result in suspensions

By Denis Barber

BBC current affairs journalists will be told tomorrow that they may be suspended if they go on strike.

Mr Peter Pagnamenta, the new head of current affairs, and the committee of the National Union of Journalists (NUJ) will meet tomorrow to discuss the 24-hour strike held on Tuesday in protest against the decision not to renew the contracts of six reporters.

"We would take any further action more seriously," said Mr Pagnamenta yesterday. "This time we docked their pay, but there are other things we could have done. There has

been a history of little walk-outs recently when they disagree with decisions management believes it is taking quite legitimately.

"At some point, the National Union of Journalists have to abide by agreements on this sort of thing. I hope that emotional reaction to the loss of mates was the principal thing which produced this action, and that fear of any deterioration in BBC current affairs was not what it was about."

Mr Pagnamenta said it was nonsense to suggest that the BBC was going to put less emphasis on current affairs.

"We are doing 3½ hours a day of television, which is

essential to the BBC's public service, and I have had no indication from anybody that we are to do less of it, or do it less well than we are doing it now," he said.

"On the contrary, we are going to do it better. Looking at the six whose contracts we are not renewing, I do not think you can sustain the argument that we are damaging serious journalism."

Staff at BBC Lime Grove were working normally yesterday, so that the programmes which were lost on Tuesday — London Plus, Newsnight and Wednesday morning's Breakfast Time — could go out as usual.

"We are going to move on

and work normally, assuming that the changes that are going to be made do not cause difficulties," said an NUJ chaplain member. "There is a residue of suspicion and bitterness over the way the reporters were treated, and that is going to take a while to heal, but everything is back to normal here."

However, the chapel will ask for assurances about the terms on which people in the regions will serve the London Plus programme. It will also object to producers recording short items to camera without reporters and will establish whether there will be changes in working conditions as a result of planned collaboration between Newsnight and Panorama.

Question Time proves an increasing lure

By Colin Brown, Political Staff

Prime Minister's question time has proved so popular with MPs that the number of oral questions tabled for her by backbenchers has risen by nearly 75 per cent.

The total cost of printing the questions is about £145,000

a year, a remarkable investment by MPs in their own ability to get on to the most popular platform in Parliament which is broadcast live.

The Commons select committee on procedure has decided to carry out changes in an attempt to save an estimated £70,000 on the printing bill. It has decided to stop the repetitious printing of "open" ques-

tions to the Prime Minister and instead merely print the names of the MPs.

The open question has grown in use because, by asking the Prime Minister to list her engagements, an MP can raise a topical issue which might catch her off guard. The ritual has become so important that Mrs Thatcher goes through an exhaustive briefing on Tuesdays and Thursdays to

make sure she is not wrongfooted.

Aides to the Labour leader, Mr Neil Kinnock, take great pains in devising questions which could trip up Mrs Thatcher. They will be pleased to know, along with other MPs, that there is no chance of ruling out the open question in the future.

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To combat not just prejudice but thoughtlessness.

To let people with disabilities lead a fuller and more integrated life.

To help them gain access to all the facilities we take for granted. Education, housing, public amenities and work.

But, what's just as important, not in segregated places nor at segregated times.

Chances are you're in a position to help. Whether you design buildings, run them, work in them or own them. If you'd like more advice write for a leaflet to GLC Disability Resource Team, Room 92, The County Hall, London SE1 7PB.

Or ring the GLC Hotline on 01-633 4400.

We would also welcome enquiries from people with disabilities. Not that we can solve individual cases, but we can give guidance.

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Prague uses Sir Geoffrey's visit to attack Star Wars

Howe tells Czechs home truths on human rights

From Heila Pick in Prague

The first discordant notes of Sir Geoffrey Howe's East European trip were heard here yesterday when the Czechoslovakians took the opportunity of the Foreign Secretary's visit to attack the United States.

In return, Sir Geoffrey, aware that he would be unable to meet any member of Charter 77 human rights group, delivered the strongest attack on human rights abuses in the Communist world heard from any British spokesman for a long time.

The confrontation came at the end of a festive lunch. The Czechoslovakian Foreign Minister, Mr Bohuslav Chmoupek, delivered a toast in which he condemned the US for "attempts at misusing the Geneva talks to camouflage or even justify the further escalation of armaments."

He made clear that he was speaking of MX missiles, and space weapons, and taunted Sir Geoffrey with his recent critique of President Reagan's Star Wars project.

After arguing that space weapons would "sharply reduce Europe's security," Mr Chmoupek continued: "In keeping with this fact is your recent remark that there would be no advantage in creating a new Maginot Line of the 21st century."

The Foreign Secretary countered by emphasising that the Soviet Union had been "engaged in space research for many years." The Russians were now "in the vanguard" of space expertise and the United States was "fully entitled to follow."

His own remarks on Star Wars in no way contradicted Britain's support of research into space, he said, noting the US commitment to negotiate with the Soviet Union before going ahead with any eventual deployment of space weapons.

Mr Chmoupek also introduced the issue of German revanchism and expressed "resolute condemnation..."

of revenge seekers" who question the post-war division of Europe, and the status quo in the Helsinki Declaration.

Sir Geoffrey, however, took up the issue of the Helsinki Declaration in a very different manner, addressing himself to its human rights provisions. He quoted from the original Charter 77 Declaration which said that "the human rights and freedoms underwritten by the Helsinki Declaration constitute the features of civilised life."

Commitments had been made 10 years ago in Helsinki for "a code based upon universal human needs and values codes are meant to be observed," he said. Pointing his finger at the Czechs he added: "When from time to time, we have reviewed performance under the final act we have not reached comfortable conclusions."

Later, Sir Geoffrey told Mr Chmoupek that the British public closely followed the fate of people in Czechoslovakia who suffered for their religious beliefs and from discrimination because of their political views.

Although the talks were described by the British as "businesslike, relaxed and frank," it appears that Mr Chmoupek countered by suggesting that the West enjoyed taunting his country over its human rights performance because "it is a painful spot" for Czechoslovakia.

Sir Geoffrey's visit takes place against the background of rumours, which could not be confirmed, that leading spokesmen of Charter 77, and in particular, Mr Jiri Havel, the country's foreign minister in 1980 and a signatory to the charter, had been told to stay away from Prague for the duration of his stay here.

Those who have been imprisoned for their Charter 77 activities are now under "protective supervision" and have to report to the police twice daily at specific times.

Killer of US major may be charged

From Anna Tomforde in Bonn

A Soviet sentry who shot and killed an American army officer in East Germany last month is facing disciplinary measures, and could be charged with going beyond his duty and using excessive force, according to Eastern bloc diplomatic sources in Bonn.

Quoting Soviet military officers, sources said that the sentry who shot Major Arthur Nicholson on March 24 near Ludwigslust, north-west of Berlin, was under arrest and may be court-martialled. The Russians, who have been embarrassed by the incident, which they feared at the time could seriously upset East-West relations, were trying to portray the shooting as an isolated case in which a soldier had panicked and overreacted.

Major Nicholson, who was attached to the American military liaison mission near Potsdam, was shot after taking photographs of a tank shed in what the Russians said was a restricted area.

The incident brought initial charges from Moscow that the major had been spying, counter-assertions from Washington that he had not violated any rules on the conduct of military mission members, who are bound to induce in what has been termed "licensed espionage."

But soon after the brief diplomatic flare-up between Washington and Moscow, both sides sought to play down the incident and made it clear they wished no alterations to the status of the military missions set up after the war in four former occupation zones of Germany.

Western diplomats said that the information now released through Eastern bloc sources reflected Moscow's desire to preserve the missions' role, as well as preventing harm being done to East-West relations at a time of superpower dialogue.



The Speaker of the US House of Representatives, Mr Thomas 'Tip' O'Neill (left), meets the Soviet leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, during the US congressional visit to Moscow yesterday

French right unites

Paris: France's rightwing opposition parties sealed an electoral pact yesterday as the government confirmed voting reforms.

Announcing a united front for the 1986 parliamentary election, leaders of the neo-Gaullist RPR party and the centre-right UDF rejected any alliance with the Socialists or extreme right in the absence of a clear majority.

"We refuse to consider any compromise or deal with other political groups, whether they be of the extreme right or the Socialist party," the UDF leader, Mr Jean Lecanuet, told reporters.

The parliamentary election, due next March, will be the first for more than 25 years to be fought on the basis of proportional representation.

The Interior Minister, Mr Pierre Joxe, yesterday confirmed plans for the abolition of the first-past-the-post system and for an increase in parliamentary seats.

The reforms, outlined last week, have already prompted the resignation of the Agriculture Minister, Mr Michel Rocard, and provoked a storm of protest from opposition politicians.

The UDF and RPR yesterday reaffirmed their hostility to proportional representation, saying they would reintroduce majority voting if they win power next year.

The right accuses the Government of engineering the changes in an attempt to stay in power despite declining popularity with the Government says it is merely making voting fairer.

Under the new system, to be put to the Socialist-dominated Parliament in the next few weeks, each political party will submit a list of candidates in each of the country's 99 administrative regions, or departments.

While the changes may help the Socialists, they are also expected to give the rightwing National Front party parliamentary representation for the first time.—Reuters

Thatcher seeks trade links with Indonesia

From Nicholas Cumming-Bruce in Jakarta

In nearly two hours of talks with President Suharto of Indonesia yesterday, Mrs Thatcher conveyed by Mrs Thatcher that this is a matter for settlement by Indonesia and Portugal in the United Nations, a safe line with which Indonesia's rulers feel entirely comfortable.

The Prime Minister went on to discuss East-West relations and to give her assessment of the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev, and hear about regional issues including the role of China.

But Mrs Thatcher's main interest was in how this country of 160 million people plan to invest in its wealth of oil and gas fields under the 1984-88 development plan.

She also asked what part British business can play in it.

Indonesia's arms market loomed particularly large in Britain's interests. British Aerospace won a \$100 million contract at the end of last year for Rapier missiles and another defence contract of similar value is apparently under negotiation.

The first of three Tribal-class frigates built by Britain is due to arrive here next month and when the head of the Indonesian Navy journeys later this month to Britain where some 200 Indonesians are undergoing naval training — he will be shown a large array of additional equipment, from ships to helicopters, which Britain is eager to sell.

Pickets arrested in Danish protests

Copenhagen: More than 60 people were arrested yesterday as tens of thousands of Danes defied union leaders and stopped work.

The protest, against a two-year pay deal imposed by the Government, hit factories, schools, hospitals, public transport, newspapers and government offices. It followed 17 days of the worst labour unrest in Denmark for years.

Television was blacked out for the third time in the dispute and Danish national radio broadcast only music and news after technicians walked out.

The Prime Minister, Mr Poul Schluter, said that his centre-right coalition would "not move an inch" over the deal, which imposes a 2 per cent ceiling on private and public sector wage rises.

Police said 30 of those arrested had been among about 700 pickets blocking the ramps of ferries to Sweden at the Elsinore terminal.

Garbage in the capital again went uncollected and the busy ports of Copenhagen and Aarhus remained closed. An estimated 100,000 people attended a demonstration outside the parliament in Copenhagen.

and 50,000 joined similar meetings in provincial cities.

Employers said about 26,000 workers in the private sector were on strike, roughly one in 12 of the total 300,000 covered by collective agreements.

Protesters disrupted commuter trains in Copenhagen by lying on tracks and pulling emergency brake handles. There were no early buses in the capital or at Esbjerg.

Some hospitals handled only acute cases due to staff walk-outs. But airline officials said Copenhagen airport was operating normally, with supervisors doing the work of strikers.

The protest was called by union shop stewards in defiance both of the Government and the progressive wing of the union, who are legally bound by the imposed wage settlement and urged a return to normal working.

The shop stewards, leader, Mr Jan Andersen, who is a member of the Danish Communist Party, said on Tuesday: "We will keep up the action until Schluter has gone."

Heart man doing well

STOCKHOLM: Europe's first recipient of an artificial heart, identified by his lawyer as a businessman on trial for tax evasion, is in good condition, his surgeon said yesterday.

The public prosecutor, Mr Magnus Stenberg, said he had no plans to drop long-standing charges against the patient, named by his lawyer as Leif Stenberg, aged 52.

"The operation changes nothing," Mr Stenberg said. If convicted, Mr Stenberg could face up to six years in prison.

Professor Bjorne Senn, of Karolinska hospital, Stockholm, who led the team which implanted the US-designed plastic and metal heart on Sunday, told a news conference that the recipient was in better condition than he had expected.

"The patient is surprisingly well," he said. "There is no evidence of any severe problems and we're very hopeful."

A Stockholm lawyer, Mr Bjorn Rosengren, said he had asked for charges against Mr Stenberg to be dropped.

Bonn's Libyan envoy recalled after shooting

From our Correspondent in Bonn

West Germany has recalled its ambassador to Tripoli to discuss the shooting of a Libyan dissident in Bonn. But Bonn has also made clear that it had not at present considered taking more drastic diplomatic action.

The government spokesman, Mr Peter Boenisch, said the ambassador would return for consultations, which the government hoped would throw some light on the background of the murder of Mr Gebrijl Denali, aged 30, an opponent of the regime of Colonel Gaddafi.

Two German passport holders were seriously injured in the shooting on Saturday and one of them, a 43-year-old woman, is still critically ill.

Mr Boenisch said that until investigations were completed, Bonn would not adopt the view that the killer, Fatah Tarhoni, was acting on behalf of the Libyan authorities. He also ruled out the cutting of diplomatic ties with Libya.

Mr Boenisch said Tarhoni told police he came to West Germany on his own initiative to kill opponents of Col Gaddafi.

Mr Boenisch revealed a series of police blunders in connection with Tarhoni's stay in West Germany. He said the Federal Criminal Office had information that Tarhoni planned murder in Bonn. But the local immigration authorities, unaware of the police information, extended Tarhoni's visa for two months.

Tarhoni, who said he brought the revolver used in the killing from Libya, had met his victim in a Bonn cafe and talked to him only two days before the shooting. The spokesman also confirmed that the head of Libya's intelligence services, Mr Yunis Belgasseem, was in West Germany for medical treatment.

Mr Denali, who belonged to the opposition General Union of Libyan Students and had been granted political asylum in West Germany, was not the first Libyan dissident to be murdered here. In 1980, a Libyan was killed in an exchange deal.

Meanwhile, Iraq yesterday ordered the West German charge d'affaires, Mr Helmut Arndt, to leave the country within seven days.

A foreign Ministry spokesman said without elaborating that the envoy was guilty of "flagrant interference" in Iraq's internal affairs. Officials in Bonn denied knowledge of the Iraqi charges.

From Ian Black in Jerusalem

Israel will have no hesitation in attacking guerrilla targets in Lebanon after the completion of its three-stage withdrawal to the international border next month, the Prime Minister, Mr Shimon Peres, said yesterday.

Speaking during a visit to an Israeli paratrooper unit serving near the Lebanese port city of Tyre, Mr Peres said he believed the Israeli army was far superior to its Syrian counterpart, and he advised Syria to act "with restraint" in Lebanon, as it had on the Golan Heights front.

Israeli military sources said yesterday they were worried that the regime in Damascus would encourage Shi'ite Muslims and Palestinian attacks across the border once the withdrawal ended. They were especially concerned about the possibility of a Shi'ite-Palestinian alliance.

The Prime Minister told the soldiers: "We don't want Lebanon, or Lebanese water, or Lebanese politics. But if anyone fires at us, nothing will prevent us from responding at once as is appropriate."

Two soldiers killed in a suicide car bomb attack in southern Lebanon on Tuesday were buried yesterday, as the army announced it was setting up an investigation to determine whether there had been lapses in the tough security measures in force in the occupied area. Nearly 650 Israeli servicemen have been killed during the war in Lebanon.

The soldiers died when a 16-year-old Lebanese Shi'ite girl, Sana Mheidieh, crashed a car into an Israeli position on the Ba'at ash-Shouf checkpoint on the Litani River. A film of the girl made before her suicide mission was broadcast on Lebanese television late on Tuesday night. She said in the interview that she was going to join "other martyrs" killed in anti-Israeli attacks.

An Israeli soldier injured in the attack, said yesterday the girl had driven slowly up to the checkpoint and had shown no sign of nervousness as she drew level with an army jeep seconds before the explosion.

In announcing Mheidieh's death, the Lebanese National Resistance Movement pledged to carry out more suicide operations "until our occupied south is liberated."

The mother of an Israeli army corporal, Mendel Melamed, one of two soldiers killed in Tuesday's suicide car-bomb attack in Lebanon, mourns her son at a funeral held outside Tel Aviv yesterday.

Lebanon PM stages boycott of Cabinet

Beirut: The Prime Minister, Mr Rashid Karami, said yesterday that he would not attend further Cabinet meetings until implementation of a decision on measures to stop three weeks of fighting in the southern port of Sidon.

Mr Karami said he made his decision after the Cabinet listened to a report by the army command on delays in deploying extra troops to stop Christian-Muslim fighting.

I will not attend the Cabinet until all these problems are resolved," Mr Karami said. "My attitude is clear and frank, namely to save Sidon."

Political sources said the army was unwilling to send extra troops in, as the Cabinet had decided, because it wanted a political solution to the conflict.

The last time the Lebanese army was involved in sectarian fighting in Beirut, split along confessional lines, was in February, 1984, when more than 200 injured, sources said.—Reuters.

The Minister of Education, Mr Selim al-Hoss, supported Mr Karami in his decision. The boycott is the gravest threat so far to the future of Lebanon's year-old "national unity" cabinet, already boycotted by three of its original 10 members.

Mr Karami, who is serving his tenth term as Sunni Muslim Prime Minister, said that he would continue private contacts to stem the fighting in Sidon.

Nine people were injured in fresh fighting between Christian and Muslim forces around Sidon yesterday, security sources said. The fighting centred on Ain al-Hilweh and Miyeh Miyeh Palestinian refugee camps, near confrontation lines formed in three weeks of sectarian battles that have claimed about 60 dead and more than 200 injured, sources said.—Reuters.

US firms indicted for arms smuggling

New York: Four American arms dealers were indicted yesterday for exporting arms illegally, including selling sophisticated night vision devices to Argentina during the Falklands war.

While prosecutors said an unnamed Argentine official was involved in the deal, the federal grand jury indictments did not accuse Argentina of violating weapons export laws.

"Until Argentina got these devices, it was fighting blindfolded in the Falklands war," said Mr Patrick O'Brien, the assistant regional US customs commissioner.

Besides selling the device to Argentina, the four were also charged with attempting to export weapons to Poland and Iraq, and night vision goggles to the Soviet Union.

They were alleged to have made \$1 million profit on the Argentine deal which involved selling 1,300 night vision goggles which allowed soldiers to see and shoot in the dark.

According to Mr O'Brien, Britain already had these devices. After the war began in April, 1982, Argentine found itself trying to buy as much weaponry as it could.

When Britain recovered the islands after the 10-week battle, its soldiers found fields littered with the illegally sold devices originally developed by the United States in the Vietnam war, said Mr O'Brien.

Indicted yesterday were the H.R. Security Electronics Company of New York, its president, Mr H. Leonard Berg, aged 49; Mr Solomon Schwartz, aged 49, owner of International Security Associates; Mr Leon Libona, aged 60, owner of Global Research Development; and Mr Grimm de Pautics, aged 41, who is charged with shipping the devices to Argentina.

"The funds used for buying the night vision devices came from a bank account used by the Argentine Naval Commission," the US federal prosecutor, Mr Raymond Dearie, said.

The four each face up to 20 years in jail if convicted.—Reuters

Death of rebel denied

San Salvador: El Salvador's military said yesterday that it believes Joaquin Villalobos, the leader of the People's Revolutionary Army (ERP), was dead.

But the rebels' Radio Venceremos said reports of the death were a fabrication and broadcast what it called an interview with him referring to an item on the radio earlier yesterday.

The ERP is one of five guerrilla groups fighting the US-backed army under the banner of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front.

The army said last week it understood that Villalobos had been badly wounded in a battle on March 31.—Reuters.

Student dies in Chilean police raid

From Malcolm Coad in Santiago

A student has been shot dead and three Chilean trade union leaders have been abducted during raids by police and unidentified gunmen in Santiago.

The raids were followed by a new wave of bombings while in a southern Santiago suburb 50 people briefly occupied a school to back demands for an investigation of the recent murder of three government opponents and the deaths of students in past anti-government protests.

Today has been declared a Day of Reflection on the Right to Life by unions, human rights groups, and the Opposition in response to political violence.

The student, Oscar Vicente Fuentes, aged 19, was shot in the back by police when they dispersed university and secondary school students who were handing out leaflets outside a Santiago school. Several other students were arrested and were expected to be charged under the Law of Internal State Security.

Armed civilians, some wearing balaclavas and boots, twice raided the offices of the Construction Workers Confederation in the centre of the capital.

Building workers' leaders who went into hiding after the raid reported that their colleagues, Jose Luis Figueroa, Rinaldo Alvarez, and Manuel Bustamante, were abducted when the raiders returned.

Neves's deputy struggles to hold support of Opposition

From Jan Rocha in Sao Paulo

THE politicians have already adjusted to the idea that the President of Brazil for the foreseeable future is a minor poet from the backward state of Maranhao.

Mr Sarney, the man Tancredus Neves chose as his deputy.

Mr Sarney, aged 54, is a member of the Brazilian Academy of Letters. He is also a career politician, who began on the progressive wing of the Conservative UDN Party, preaching agrarian reform and counting on the votes of the peasants in his home state in the north of Brazil.

After the military coup of 1964, Mr Sarney changed sides, and was elected on the government ticket to govern Maranhao. The man who had advocated land reform now began handing out huge tracts of public lands not to the peasants, but to the big southern companies, who, favoured by government legislation, wanted to set up cattle ranches.

After being governor, Mr Sarney was elected Senator, and became chairman of the government party, the PDS.

In 1984 he led the government vote against direct elections, but four months later, in July, he crossed the floor to join the opposition after a stormy executive meeting when he attempted to foil the rise of the presidential candidate, Mr Paulo Maluf, was thrown out.

Mr Sarney could not stomach the crude methods of Mr Maluf, so he joined the growing band of refugees who began the cluster around the opposition's conservative candidate, Tancredus Neves.

He was chosen as Vice-President to cement the alliance between the PUDR, and the government dissident, who called themselves the Liberal Front. He looked forward to a discreet vice-presidency, in the shadow of the increasingly popular Tancredus Neves.

Tolerated as a necessary evil by the left wing of the PMDB (Brazilian Democratic Movement Party), Mr Sarney kept a low profile throughout the election campaign.

President-elect Tancredus Neves was yesterday showing a slight improvement after suffering a grave post-operative crisis, but his condition was still causing great concern.

Mr Sarney's only hope of achieving legitimacy in the eyes of the political observers, is by hurrying up the introduction of the social reforms planned by Neves.

Consequently Mr Sarney has dusted down the emergency plan for food and jobs prepared by a committee of economists earlier this year, which had been shelved by Neves's nephew, the powerful finance minister.

Mr Francisco Dornelles, who is encouraging the Planning Minister, Mr Joao Sayad, to give the lead on economic questions.

Mr Dornelles, who sees the battle against the 230 per cent a year inflation as the Government's main priority, even if it means unpopular measures, had taken literally his uncle's command to the first Cabinet meeting — "spending is forbidden" — and slashed public funds.

Mr Sarney's dilemma is how to reconcile the pent-up demand for change with the reality of an empty Treasury.

Neves has planned to negotiate a social pact between the unions, employers, and the Government.

Mr Sarney instead has to rely on the ability of his Labour Minister, Mr Almir Pazianoto, who has been drafted up and down the country, mediating in wage disputes and avoiding stoppages.

The success of this tactic, which relies heavily on Mr Pazianoto's own popularity, is about to be called into question. The militant metalworkers of the industrial region in Sao Paulo, site of most of the multinational car factories, are demanding a 40-hour week as well as higher pay, and have called a strike for this week.

Success in this strike could spark dozens more in other important sectors, and raise the spectre of social upheaval, so dear to the hearts of the rightwing military.

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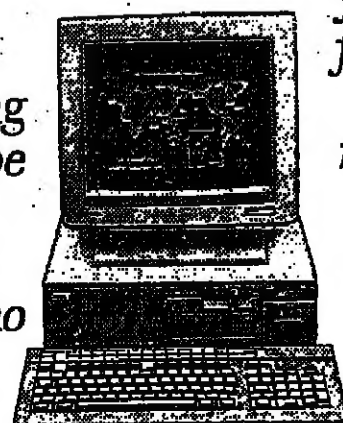
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Naval deal with Washington
likely to anger New Zealand

China wins US pledge to ban visits by nuclear ships

From Mary-Louise O'Callaghan
in Peking

The US is giving to China the non-nuclear guarantee on all ships visiting Chinese ports that it has refused to give to New Zealand, according to the General Secretary of the Communist Party, Mr Hu Yaobang.

Mr Hu said that China supported New Zealand's non-nuclear stance and disclosed that China had asked and received assurances from the US that any US ships visiting Chinese ports would be conventional warships.

News of this agreement is likely to come as some surprise to New Zealand which is suffering considerable political backlash after Washington refused to disclose whether ships visiting New Zealand would be carrying nuclear weapons.

The New Zealand Labour Government banned visits by nuclear ships from the country's ports following its election last year.

He said he would not be raising the issue during his visit to New Zealand this month, but that China supported New Zealand's non-nuclear stand.

The position taken by New Zealand with regards to this question is the internal affair of New Zealand. But it has always been our consistent position to oppose the super powers' nuclear arms race," he said.

China had insisted on the non-nuclear guarantee from the US before they agreed to

host a goodwill visit from the US navy this year.

The official organ of the Chinese Communist Party, the People's Daily, came out in support of the New Zealand banning last year with a commentary that said China supported New Zealand's stand against the superpowers.

Meanwhile, China's legislators have unanimously approved the Sino-British joint declaration on the return of the British colony of Hong Kong to China in 1997. The decision was taken at the final session of this year's National People's Congress.

When vice-chairman, Mr Chen Pixian, asked delegates for final comment on the agreement, which will allow Hong Kong to retain its capitalist system for 50 years, they applauded and then all raised their arms to favour.

China will press ahead with a programme of wage and price reforms this year, despite problems three months ago which forced the Government to clamp down on the money supply and slow the economy.

The decision, passed yesterday by the National People's Congress, was contained in the final resolution of the NPC's closing session.

Legislators also approved the outline 1985 budget, and the annual report of the Premier, Mr Zhao Ziyang. Mr Zhao said in his report the Government was taking measures to dampen down the economy after inflationary increases in wages.

China had insisted on the non-nuclear guarantee from the US before they agreed to



Ramon Layoso, a former airport security guard, gives evidence in the Aquino case in Manila yesterday

Pakistan Cabinet named

ISLAMABAD: The new Prime Minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, named Pakistan's first all-civilian Cabinet in eight years yesterday, keeping five ministers from the Cabinet of President Zia.

The portfolio of the 13 ministers were not immediately announced, but those retained includes the Foreign Affairs Minister, Mr Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, and the Planning Minister, Mr Mahbubul Haq.

Political sources said the two would retain their portfolios and Mr Haq was also likely to be head of the Finance Ministry as well.

The others named from the previous cabinet were the Local Government and Rural Development Minister, Mr Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali, the Railways Minister, Mr Abdul Ghafoor Khan Hoti, and the Communications Minister, Mr Mohyuddin Baluch.

Mr Jamali, who comes from the south-western province of Baluchistan, was a contender for prime minister's office before General Zia named Mr Junejo for the job.

Mr Junejo, who announced his Cabinet 18 days after taking the oath of office, also named seven deputy ministers or ministers of state and two advisers.

It was not immediately clear when he would appoint more ministers. The Prime Minister's office was revived by constitutional amendments decreed by General Zia which also gave sweeping powers to the presidential office in addition to his all-powerful post of Chief Martial Law Administrator. — Reuters

Kampuchean rebels may get US military aid

From Mark Tran
in Washington

In a shift of US policy, the Administration no longer opposes military aid to the non-Communist Kampuchean resistance. Although there are no immediate plans to supply military aid, the change does have the way for possible American military involvement in Indo-China for the first time since the war there ended 10 years ago.

The policy alteration comes as leaders of the two groups held talks with the Secretary of State, Mr Shultz, yesterday. The visit here of the Prime Minister, Mr Son Sann, who leads the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, and Prince Ranariddh, the son of Prince Sihanouk, the head of the whole of Congress, but it was an unusual turn of events, since normally Congress tries to restrain the Administration from foreign adventures.

The episode is all the more ironic since some of the liberal Democrats who favour the move staunchly oppose aid for the Nicaraguan rebels.

1975 and the Vietnamese invasion of 1978. Until now, the Administration had opposed sending military aid to any of the factions, especially the Khmer Rouge. But it has come under increasing pressure from the Association of South-east Asian Nations, and from quarters within Congress, to help militarily the non-Communist groups, particularly after the successful Vietnamese offensive against rebel border camps.

Last week, the House Foreign Affairs Committee voted overwhelmingly in favour of \$5 million in "appropriate" aid — a euphemism for military aid — to the non-Communists. The measure has a long way to go before being adopted by the whole of Congress, but it was an unusual turn of events, since normally Congress tries to restrain the Administration from foreign adventures.

The episode is all the more ironic since some of the liberal Democrats who favour the move staunchly oppose aid for the Nicaraguan rebels.

Faced with this situation, the Administration has said that, although it thinks the non-Communist insurgents have sufficient arms, it did not think it wise to forgo flexibility on this point should circumstances change. In other words, military aid is no longer ruled out.

The Administration still prefers not to get militarily involved. It believes that the modest military needs of the Son Sann and Sihanouk groups can easily be met through Chinese and Asian aid. It fears that US military involvement would complicate the search for a diplomatic solution.

And, although the Administration is gratified at some congressional support for military aid for the non-Communist, there is considerable wariness at linking their military fortunes to the whims of Congress. US officials suspect that some of the liberal Democrats have taken their stand on Kampuchea to prove their toughness even as they oppose aid for the Nicaraguan rebels.

Police blamed for errors in statement on Langa shooting

From Patrick Laurence
in Johannesburg

Police were responsible for any errors in the statement to Parliament by the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Louis le Grange, on the Langa shootings, on March 21, the Commissioner of Police, General Johan Coetzee, said yesterday.

The blame lies with the police, General Coetzee told the Kammeyer commission of inquiry into the events leading to the killing of 19 blacks by police gunfire at Langa, near the eastern Cape town of Uitenhage.

Mr Le Grange told Parliament on March 21 that a small contingent of policemen in two armoured vehicles had opened fire in self defence after it was surrounded by thousands of 4,000 and 6,000 stone-throwing blacks armed with petrol bombs.

But the police officer in command at Langa, Lieutenant John William Fouché, later admitted under cross-examination before the commission that the police were neither surrounded nor attacked with petrol bombs. He had given the order to fire after he had seen only one stone thrown, he said.

Mr Le Grange had been disturbed by news of the shooting at Langa and wanted to make a statement to Parliament as soon as possible, General Coetzee said.

The General, aided by his staff officers, had tried to gather as much information as possible for Mr Le Grange, who made his statement on the basis of police information on the same day.

Conceding that discrepancies between Mr Le Grange's state-



General Johan Coetzee

ment and police evidence to the commission had resulted in bad publicity, General Coetzee said: "But that was what we could do in the time limit."

Mr Peter Geyser, for the Progressive Federal Party, put it to General Coetzee that it would have been better if Mr Le Grange had made it clear that his statement was provisional rather than definitive.

General Coetzee replied that it was clear to the objective viewer that Mr Le Grange was not in possession of "established facts" but only of the facts made available to the police on March 19. The "best of the machinery's ability" in the time available.

General Coetzee distanced himself from the use of the word "eliminate" in an order to police on March 19. The order instructed police to "eliminate" people throwing petrol and acid bombs at them. "That is not a term I would have used," General Coetzee

said. He would have ordered the police to render the bomb throwers "harmless."

South Africa yesterday warned the country's largest anti-apartheid organisation that it was dangerously wrong to think that the country would accept increasing violence as a means of political expression.

The two million-strong United Democratic Front said on Sunday that it would step up civil disobedience and that New Zealand's rugby team would face demonstrations if it played here.

Most demonstrations here are illegal. The UDF said it planned peaceful protests but feared police reaction could lead to violence.

Radio South Africa said in a daily commentary which reflects government thinking that it was the first time an organisation like the UDF had gone so far as to state publicly its intention of engaging in what it called extortion.

Meanwhile, thousands of illegal squatters in South Africa's Crossroads shanty town have agreed to move to a new township in exchange for temporary legal status, but others are demanding permanent rights, an official said.

Police shot dead 18 black Crossroads residents in February when riots flared because of government plans to uproot the estimated 100,000 squatters and move them to a nearby town. The Government backed down and said it would redevelop Crossroads, and about 3,000 houses and many residents would still have to move. — Reuters

Sudan rejects rebel ultimatum

Cairo: Sudan's military rulers have rejected an ultimatum by southern rebel leader, Colonel John Garang, to hand power to a civilian government within a week, diplomats said.

Western diplomatic reports from Khartoum said that the military command had said it would not be dictated to by Colonel Garang, who leads a rebellion in the Christian South against the predominantly Muslim North.

The diplomats said that the ultimatum, which gave the generals seven days to resign or face continued rebellion, should not be taken too seriously as Colonel Garang could be seeking a seat in a future government.

General Swareddahab, who seized power in a coup last Saturday, has named himself president of a 15-man transitional military council and appointed General Taj al-Din Abdullah as vice-president.

General Swareddahab has ignored calls from political

groups to rescind a state of emergency but has given assurances that he is working to restore civilian rule.

Sudan's capital, Khartoum, was out of contact again yesterday. Communications, restored since the coup, were cut once more and the airport was closed for the eighth day. It was not known here whether more strikes had been called.

General Swareddahab has banned strikes and political marches under the state of emergency which he imposed after taking power.

Meanwhile, the former president, Mr Numeiri, says he wants to return home "as an ordinary citizen" when possible, the weekly magazine Al-Mussawwar reported in Cairo.

The state-owned magazine said in an article that Mr Numeiri, who had in Cairo, asked President Mubarak to relay his wish to General Swareddahab.

The article was written by Mr Makram Mohamed Ahmed,

the magazine's board chairman and editor, who is known to be close to President Mubarak's office.

Mr Numeiri is reported as having said to President Mubarak: "I do not want my presence here (in Egypt) to be a burden on relations between the two countries. These relations should remain above personalities. It appears there is no alternative for me but to stay here for some time until conditions permit my return to Khartoum as an ordinary citizen who tried to play his role. Please convey this request to General Swareddahab."

Colonel Garang, in a broadcast on rebel radio on Tuesday, called on unions to continue the strikes and demonstrations "until the generals hand over power to the people."

General Swareddahab, who last year commanded military operations against the rebels in the South, has pledged to restore national unity through direct dialogue with the rebels

Aquino court told of shooting

Manila: A former airport guard gave a court its first account yesterday, supporting a prosecution claim that former Senator Aquino was shot by a soldier.

Mr Ramon Layoso, aged 58, said that he did not see the shooting, but said that Aquino was still on a stairway leading down from the plane when the shot that killed him rang out. Only soldiers were on the stairway at the time with Aquino, who was shot in the back of the head.

Aquino was returning from exile in the US when he was killed on August 21, 1983.

Mr Layoso added: "I didn't know where the shot came from. I turned to look and saw that they (Aquino and the soldier) were about one or two steps before reaching the tarmac... they looked as though they were watching their steps, as though nothing had happened."

Mr Layoso, who repeated statements he gave a fact-finding board last year, said he was standing about 60 feet from the stairway when he saw Aquino coming down, and he looked again, he saw that a man in civilian clothes who was following Aquino had moved closer behind the former senator, Mr Layoso said.

Mr Layoso, who has left his port job, changed his address, and was reported missing, gave evidence a week after he was found by court sheriffs.

His testimony goes to the heart of the prosecution case in that it "bolstered our theory that Aquino was killed by a soldier and not by Rolando Galman," the Chief Prosecutor, Mr Manuel Herrera, told reporters.

Galman, who the military said was a Communist assassin, was killed by soldiers after Aquino was shot.

The prosecution case against the armed forces chief, General Fabian Ver, and 25 others charged with the murder of Aquino and Galman has suffered for a lack of witnesses and retractions by several others.

The military says that Galman, disguised as a mechanic, shot Aquino on the tarmac.

The court recessed for a week. — AP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nigeria 'blocking food aid'

THE UN World Food Programme warned yesterday for the second time in a week that more than 1.5 million people in landlocked Chad face starvation because Nigeria has closed its ports to Chad-bound emergency food shipments.

The WFP's African task force said in a statement that the situation was "serious, and it will get more serious if we don't find a solution very soon." Mr Erik Meijer, head of the task force, said.

In a separate report Mr Edouard Saouma, the director-general of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, described the food situation as "particularly desperate" in Chad, Mali, Niger and Mali, "where there have been mass movements of population in search of food."

The WFP said the Nigerian authorities, for unknown reasons, have been refusing to allow ships carrying food for Chad to dock while accepting similar shipments bound for Niger. — AP

Terror group

A HITHERTO unknown group claims to have carried out an Easter Monday bomb attack on a Nato pipeline, the Federal Prosecutor's Office in Karlsruhe, said yesterday. A spokesman said: "Ulrich Meinhart, a fighter, 'Unit-Revolutionary Cells' had sent letters claiming responsibility for the blast at Aalen, 38 miles east of Stuttgart, in which nobody was injured. — Reuters

Three gaoled

THREE Muscovites who smuggled gold, caviar and valuable art works to the West by declaring them as traditional wooden dolls and souvenirs have been gaoled for nine, eight and five years the Soviet newspaper Trud said yesterday. They had bribed a postal worker to falsify customs forms on items they were sending to relatives in the United States. — Reuters

Village lynching

VILLAGERS lynched three people, believed to be members of an outlawed leftwing political group, at Narangdi, 47 miles north-east of Dhaka. The Bangladesh newspaper New Nation reported yesterday. It said one villager was wounded when the leftists opened fire in an effort to escape from the mob. — AP

Refusenik held

A FORMER Aeroflot navigator who asked to emigrate to the West has been detained in a mental clinic since he tried to enter the Dutch Embassy in Moscow, Serafim Yezhov, aged 52, was detained by a Soviet guard outside the embassy as he tried to enter to inquire about visas on Tuesday his daughter said yesterday. — Reuters

Off the list

HAITIAN immigrants will no longer be classified among groups listed as a high risk in contracting AIDS because scientists can no longer justify including them in the US centre for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia, said yesterday. — AP

Hijack sentence

A SYRIAN hijacker who commandeered a Saudi Arabian jet and made it fly to Istanbul on April 5 last year was sentenced to eight years and four months in gaol in Istanbul yesterday. Ahmed Hidir Mahlesh, aged 26, was overpowered by the crew members after he forced the plane to land. — AP

Lorry crash

A DOZEN houses were burned down in Belval, east of Nancy, after a fuel lorry crashed — one of three accidents in France yesterday involving lorries carrying explosive loads. — Reuters

Priest shot

A BELGIAN priest was shot and seriously wounded when he failed to stop at a military roadblock in the southern Colombian city of Cali yesterday. Father Hubert Giffard was hit by five bullets in the head and is in a coma in a Cali clinic. — Reuters

Shell deaths

FIVE children were killed when an artillery shell exploded outside an artillery range in central Greece yesterday, George Coats reports. The children, all 12 years old, were playing close to the camp site near Thebes when the accident happened.

High time

NEPAL will move its standard time ahead by five minutes on Saturday. The new standard time will be 5 hours and 45 minutes ahead of Greenwich Mean Time. — AP

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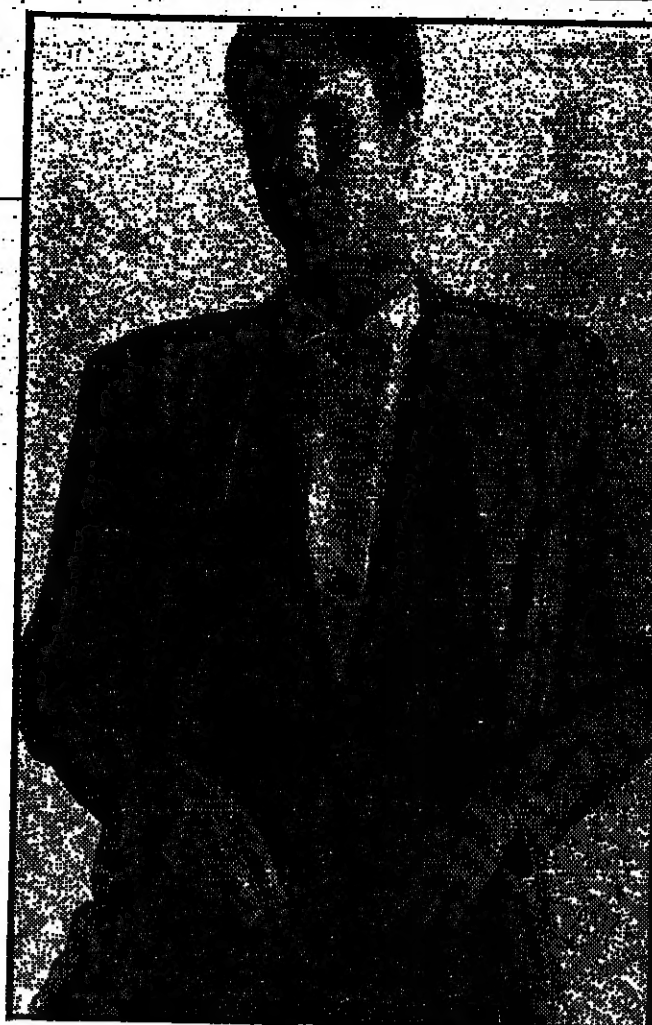
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pictures by Frank Martin



Housewives of the world unite . . . twenty-five years ago, many women were slaves to domesticity, prisoners of the mothercare-round-the-clock doctrine. Mary Stott celebrates the silver jubilee of one of the most acceptable faces of the liberation movement.

It sounds awful but . . .

IN the late fifties and sixties a young mother whose husband's change of job meant a move north, say from Hampstead to Huddersfield, or south from Chorley, Lancs, to Chorleywood, Herts, felt like a displaced person. She knew no one, suspected her accent and attitudes were off-putting to the locals, seldom had the use of a car, perhaps not even a telephone — and there were no pre-school playgroups. (They were not invented until 1961.)

For many women then, there was also a sort of psychological lock on the front door. Dr John Bowlby's study of the damage maternal deprivation could do to children in institutions was assumed to apply also to the rearing of children at home: the "mothercare round the clock" doctrine created widespread inhibitions and feelings of guilt. Even though you knew that you might be needed to teach maths to other people's daughters, you could not risk leaving your own darling daughter, even for half a day, for fear of turning her into an emotional cripple or a delinquent.

In January 1960, Lois Mitchison, daughter of Naomi, reporting in the Guardian's Mainly for Women page on the uncles and aunts among her graduate friends in Oxford, actually suggested that we should ask ourselves "whether we have gone too far in giving women the same education on the same terms as men." Did this, she implied, render them unfit for domesticity? Did it make them restless and unhappy? The result was a correspondence war that was fast and furious. It was into this ruffled Guardian pond that Maureen Nicol, a housewife living in the Wirral, Cheshire, dropped her first stone, suggesting "a register of liberal-minded housewives" so that women isolated in an unfamiliar area could always make contact with potential friends.

Letters immediately started to pour through. Maureen Nicol's idea had surprised us at the time, but what is much more surprising is that the pebble's ripples have gone on spreading for 25 years, right across the country and right round the world. When, in April 12-13, the National Housewives' Register celebrates its silver jubilee it will link together 24,000 women in 1,200 groups in 20 countries, and nearly 200 groups round the world, from Mexico to Switzerland, from Saudi Arabia to Denmark.

How this one woman band, so unapologetically named, so quickly managed to recruit so many energetic and dedicated workers; how it managed to go on growing steadily

through the "melting pot" years of the seventies, when many a lively group thrown up by the ferment of "liberationist" ideas barely survived the decade, are fascinating questions. Perhaps the short answer is that thoughtful and able young women put their minds to devising a system that has the minimum of structure needed to maintain nationwide communication and the maximum of freedom for local group activity. For many years one "national organiser" practically ran the show from her own home. Now there is a well equipped national headquarters at Solihull, Birmingham, run by a paid national organiser and a paid office administrator, and a "national group" of ten elected nationally.

Local groups make an agreed contribution to national funds, but as they still always meet in one another's homes, they do not have to spend time in organising jumbles and bring and buys. They run their own group in complete independence, subject to virtually no national rules, conforming to no national policy.

An even more interesting question than how the National Housewives' Register has survived so stoutly is why. The young women born since NHR was born have grown up into a very different world from their mothers' . . . the post-Pill world, where women expect to have full choice in deciding their roles and their way of life. They have no inhibitions about taking paid employment while their children are still quite young if they observe that their friends are free to make friends, as well as find stimulus, at work or in voluntary organisations or educational courses. Of all the labels that might be stuck on them today, "housewife" is probably the last most would choose. There are, of course, always rebels against the organisation's name. At one West Yorkshire correspondent asked in the NHR Newsletter, "How many of us have introduced NHR to friends with the comment, 'It sounds awful, but . . .'"

NHR doesn't march. It doesn't campaign or lobby. It doesn't have a political view. It maintains a strictly observer status if it joins in other people's discussions of issues of the day . . . though increasingly members don other hats to support all sorts of causes and pressure groups. So what does it do? The answer is contained in a single word, talk. Members talk in their local groups, in regional conferences, in an annual national conference. Even young professional women value this outlet.

The peacock syndrome

Two centuries of conditioning take a lot of shaking off, reports Brenda Polan. But suddenly, all the inhibitions about what men can and cannot wear are evaporating . . .

ONLY a year or two ago the principal of any of our schools of fashion design, if confronted by a student intent on specialising in menswear, would probably have responded with a despairing shake of the head. Certainly, the student might make a modest living in this country if he or she were prepared to temper the imagination to meet the safe and sober demands of the mass market; to make a name the designer must be prepared to live and work abroad. There was simply no market in Britain for innovative clothes for men.

Men's wardrobes were still places where conformity edged primly towards uniformity. A bloke knew what he was expected to wear on every conceivable occasion and he was secure in the knowledge that, allowing for minute variations within strictly defined limits, every other man present would be dressed in exactly the same way. Anyone who turned up in sporting garments which were inappropriate or embarrassingly different proclaimed himself either an outsider or a hopeless eccentric. Eccentrics invested in British culture with the status, freedoms, and privileges of court jester or king's fool, were to be tolerated, even treasured.

Not so outsiders. The uniforms of male dress defined

class as efficiently, if somewhat more subtly, as did the latterday contrast between the noble's velvet and the peasant's homespun. Imagine the trade union leader addressing his members at a pit or factory gates clad in a tailored camel coat with velvet lapels over a three-piece pinstripe suit, starched white shirt and plumply knotted, discretely patterned, soberly coloured silk tie. Imagine also the chairman of the board arriving at his City office clad in a navy blue anorak with a bright red hood over a pale and crumpled two-piece suit, a brightly patterned knitted pullover, a checked shirt, and tightly knotted scarlet knitted acrylic tie.

Foreigners, unless they had the sense to ape, as so many did, the British way of dress, were even easier to spot. There they stood, quite ridiculous, in their tartan trousers, their ice cream salesman suits, their tight little pastel sweaters, their strangely baggy trousers and flashy shoes, wearing bright scarves and mufflers in an altogether feminine manner and carrying, so as not to spoil the line of their costumes, with unsightly bulges, handbags. Handbags. That said it all.

The worst, of course, (if we draw a kindly veil over the predictable excesses of the

New World both north and south) were the Italians. The industrial revolution and Risorgimento may have succeeded in dulling the plumage of the Italian peacock — a factory smoke and egalitarianism did everywhere — but his instinct for display was too central to his nature and too much a dominant factor in his masochistic culture to be more than slightly inhibited. Even if he had wished to abandon his right to pose, preen, and present to the world la bella figura, his mama would never have permitted it.

The ritual Sunday afternoon perambulation through the park in which most Italian families (save those afraid of kidnappers) indulge, is a time of maximum display. The adults are splendid, the flirting teenagers quite magnificent, but the children are stunning and the boy children most stunning of all. And in case they are slow and as yet unlearned in the ways of the looking glass, they are repeatedly told by solicitous adults that they are, indeed, beautiful.

So if there was to be, as there has been, a renaissance in male fashion, it is hardly remarkable that it manifested itself first in Italy. Italian tailoring, once it had worked out of its system the hair-dresser styles of the fifties and early sixties, is, pace

Savile row, the best in the world. Italian knifwear, at every level of the market, leaves the rest of the world, with the exception of a handful of Brits, standing.

The Italians, therefore, evolved a style of male dress which, while essentially classic, experimented in a restrained way with texture, colour, pattern, and shape. The leaders in the field were houses like Cerruti whose base was the production of woven fabrics like fine wool worsted and superb tailoring. It was only with the beginning of the 1980s that innovative designers like Giorgio Armani and Gianni Versace began to work seriously on leisurewear ranges and thus to change the whole vocabulary of men's clothing.

These Italian developments were paralleled in a somewhat more modest way in France. The first of the French designers to make a mark in the menswear field, Yves Saint Laurent, turned his attention to leisurewear first, since Frenchmen of his class, income, and discernment still had their suits and shirts made in London. He it who is credited with giving men the blouson jacket. In France the next designer to change the direction of menswear was Kenzo Takada, who applied his genius for colour, mixed patterns and textures, which had already earned him a

pre-eminent place in the pantheon of womenswear stars, to men's clothing. The impetus for real change came, however, from the most unlikely place: London. Vivienne Westwood dressed men as elaborately and light heartedly as she did women. In the clubs, both pop stars and fans responded with delight. Some street stylists improvised, but in the wake of Westwood came a host of designers to dress the less creative: Leigh Bowery, Rachel Aston, Jacques Hancher, John Galiano, Dean Bright, John Cranmer, Stephen King, and many, many more.

Established menswear designers like Katharine Hamnett, Wendy Dagworthy, Betty Jackson, Body Map, Memento, and Jasper Conran began to develop menswear ranges which differed very little in concept and style from their clothes for women. The result was international cross-fertilisation on a scale and at a speed which made the eyes water. Suddenly all the inhibitions about what men could and could not decently wear had evaporated and whether it was in terms of colour, of texture, of pattern, or of shape, menswear designers all over Europe (and in Japan) spoke a new, exciting language.

Some of the words in the new vocabulary do as yet

quite cruelly twist the tongue of your average Anglo-Saxon. Nearly two centuries of conditioning take a lot of shaking off. So it is unlikely that the strong language employed by the top British designers will wear him away from his simple, comfortable code.

It is more likely that the moderated language of the Italian and French designers, used as they are to servicing larger markets, will prevail. So Britain's more alert mass manufacturers, while aware of the significance of Hamnett, Body Map, Galiano, et al for the younger market, will undoubtedly be more responsive to the influence of Gianni Versace, Gianfranco Ferré, Giorgio Armani, Keith Varty at Byblos, Luciano Soprani at Basile, Yves Saint Laurent, Kenzo, Jean Paul Gaultier, and Claude Montana (the latter two stocked, along with some of the best of the British menswear designers, at Browns of South Molton Street).

For in that brief couple of years, the shaking heads have learned to nod and even smile encouragement. The market, and the Briton's wardrobe, has begun to change out of all recognition. The top designer labels are still, of course, beyond the wallet of most, but the ideas they represent are not, it seems, by any means outside the imagination.

Donald Fields talks to the radio producer whose erotic programmes keep the Finns awake at night.

Sex and the single listener

HOW do the Finns, seemingly dotted around a forest-strewn void between the 60th and 70th parallels, spend the uncompromising dark nights that make up the winter solstice? A good many of them have been listening to something called Erotiset Itämat, an evening of erotic entertainment. This is a 90-minute radio slot which goes out before midnight where listeners give vent to their innermost erotic fantasies.

The programmes are the brainchild of Seija Wallius-Kokkonen. With 20 years of radio experience behind her, Seija is now controller of social affairs programmes in the Finnish Broadcasting Company.

"The idea just came into my head when I wondered how we could counteract the gloom of winter — November especially," she explains. "My programmes have long focused on what's wrong in human relationships, and sexual problems. Now I want to bring out life's little joys." So far, there have been three live erotic evenings. Their great success is largely due to Seija's skill as an interviewer. "It requires lots of concentration, but this is what I want to do," she says. "If listeners try to turn the tables — asking me whether I have erotic dreams, for instance, — I simply give them an honest answer. It all helps

to liberate them, and to deter them from taking the mickey."

The first broadcast concentrated on how listeners defined eroticism; the second on nocturnal dreams; the third on hopes and daydreams. Though the audience appears to contain the proportion of heterosexuals found in the population as a whole, homosexuals and lesbians were encouraged to speak their minds. In one vivid sequence a man who had undergone a sex change explained how she now experienced female-like orgasms in her dreams.

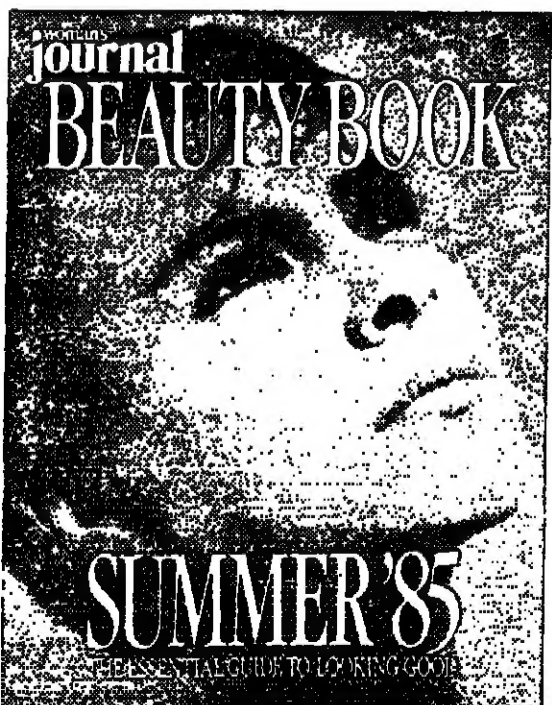
About 50 people, aged between 15-70, offered to take part in each programme. Fifty letters came in by way of feedback, the negative comments being confined to a "certain kind and certain age of woman" whom Seija views as a disgrace to her sex.

A decade ago, when Seija chaired an advice programme called Sex Letterbox, upholders of moral probity said that God would punish her. There were threats to rape her two children. Used condoms and faces, were sent through the post.

Seija attributes the advance in her compatriots' attitude to sex to education and the emergence of a less inhibited generation. But she also believes styles of presentation are a key factor,

with radio commanding an intimacy that television and newspapers lack. "It's no use just answering mail or saying 'thanks for your comments'," she says. "You have to create a real dialogue with your audience. The world is becoming more mechanised and

commercial, which means tenderness is vanishing from the sexual and other sides of people's lives. If we're not careful we'll find ourselves conducting human relationships through computer terminals. I want to restore the element of warmth."

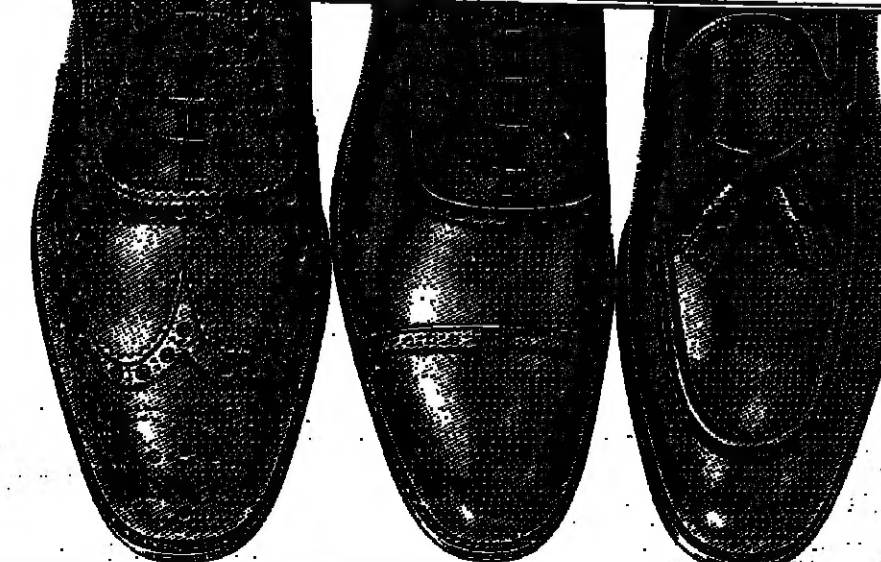


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The magpie collection

Brenda Polan meets
Rosemary Turnbull,
model turned designer

ROSEMARY TURNBULL tucks her long legs underneath her and confesses all. "I am a magpie," she says. "I take a neckline from Krista, a shoulderline from Montana, a sleeve from Lagerfeld, a skirt from Valentino... And I soften it all slightly, adapt the proportions for wearability and the fabric volume for price and the result is very commercial."

Within the fashion world the word commercial is frequently uttered with a fastidious curl of the lip. Even Rosemary seems slightly embarrassed by it, but all it means is that the product is designed and produced in such a way that it manages to be attractive to a large number of customers instead of a few; and that, after all, unless you are deliberately marketing exclusivity, is what any business is about.

The company for which Rosemary works, Parigi, is part of the Trilaine group which is in turn a subsidiary of Selincourt (which also was Jacques of faded glory), the somewhat troubled company whose shares have recently taken a boost from the interest of entrepreneur Jennifer d'Abo in them.

"The company was started by Roy Haynes, now chairman of the Trilaine and Garlaine group and my boss, as a blouse house," says Rosemary. "The first range was six georgette blouses and dresses were added later. A few seasons later they became very adventurous and went into polyester jersey. By the time I was brought in

three and a half years ago, when the two young men who had been putting the range together left to start their own company, the range consisted of many items — a few blouses, a couple of two-pieces and a dozen dresses, all in georgette — but it was not a collection. There was no consistency, no relationship between the various garments, no look.

"Now it has a look. The collection splits into two but the two halves are related and there is a consistent style to all the clothes. That is so important for the customer. Of course, she doesn't want to buy the whole collection or even a huge part of it but if, as she goes through the rails, she receives the impression that the designer has complete confidence in one particular set of proportions and in certain colour stories, then she too can start to feel confident."

"A raft of garments all in different, co-plementary colours, all reflecting conflicting ideas about proportion, causes nothing but confusion, and a confused customer beats a hasty retreat — absolutely rightly. You must have seen what I mean in overstuffed boutiques and stores where the buyer has no idea of the style she wants to communicate and buys a bit of this and a bit of that and crams it all together in a vain hope that she has covered all tastes and preferences."

The two parts of the Parigi collection are the smart, crisp special occasion or executive woman dresses and

two- and three-piece outfits, mostly in polyester georgette but also in polyester crêpe de chine and satin, and Parigi Sport, a youthful, fresh, and of course sporty range in cotton.

The clothes are simple, relying on good colour and strong lines for their sense of style. There is little trim and no fuss, and details which are used are classy and understated. They are clothes, in fact, very much in Rosemary's personal style which is elegant, relaxed, well groomed, and grown-up without being stuffy. It is easy to see why they suit the requirements of enough women to render them commercial.

Rosemary started her career as a much-in-demand runway model, one of the lean and lanky clothes horses who parade the catwalks of Paris, Milan and London. "I never, ever wanted to be anything else," she says. "It was the most wonderful life, the best job in the whole world. The greatest charm was the lack of responsibility. As long as you present yourself on time and look right, everyone thinks you are wonderful."

The high standard of manufacture which is a Parigi hallmark is achieved by making the clothes in Hong Kong. "The owner of the factory we use, John Ling, is endlessly helpful and accommodating. Once you have worked with the flexibility of Hong Kong manufacturers, you are spoiled for any other mass-facturing industry. We are, however, investigating the possibility of making some things in Britain."

The model in the designer herself, Rosemary Turnbull. The photographer is Frank Martin. For stockists outside London, please telephone Jaffe Bellinger: 01-636 4662.

Top left: white/navy polyester faille three-piece skirt suit (also white/turquoise, red/white, black/red, stone/white, sugar pink/white, cobalt/white) 6-16, £225. By Parigi from Dickens & Jones, Regent Street, W1; Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1; Selfridges, Oxford Street, W1.

Top right: shocking pink 65 per cent cotton/35 per cent polyester jumpsuit (also white, black, tobacco, jade, yellow, red, navy, flame, stone, turquoise, khaki) 6-16, £78.50. Shocking pink/white cotton T-shirt (also red/white, navy/white, stone/white, turquoise/white) smt, £22. Both by Parigi Sport from Dickens & Jones, Regent Street, W1; Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1.

Below: white cotton top smt, £39.50. White pleated polyester crêpe skirt (also rice, lemon, navy, sugar pink) 6-16, £90. Both by Parigi from Dickens & Jones, Regent Street, W1; Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1; Selfridges, Oxford Street, W1. For out-of-London stockists (as above).



Corrine Streich describes how an American sets about becoming a hard working, hard playing 35-year-old yuppie earning lots of money and making a sacred act out of spending it conspicuously.

A groom with a view

LOOKING GOOD, being well dressed, speaking with ease, and speech. The insecure and the ambitious who were not given in-house grooming, rushed to firms with names like Putting It All Together, Face Facts, Ideal Image, whose professional goal is, as they put it, to help individual clients reverse any negative self-perceptions and project the image of their choice through the medium of their wardrobe.

Calling themselves personal image consultants, they offer advice on everything from colour analysis for wardrobe selection to career goals, from how to survive a hostile media interview to how to order wine with a meal. In essence, their clients pay them to tell them everything their parents always told them for free: walk tall, sit up straight, speak clearly — and be motivated.

Unlike parents, though, image makers do not nag, and they have impressive credentials. The principal of a broad-based consulting firm draws on her success as a former marketing executive who understands what makes good packaging work. And as the ex-wife of the chief executive officer (CEO) of a Fortune 500 company, she has first hand experience in the psychodynamics of effective communication in corporate business and social situations. Her teaching methods include role play and videotaping for on-camera practice. A private day-long consultation costs \$1,500.

The image consulting industry was born in the 1970s, partly as an outgrowth of teleconferencing. Senior corporate executives, catching sight of themselves and their staff on video screens during electronic inter-office meetings, urgently sought specialists in broadcasting, public relations, speech, and audio-visual fields to coach them in speaking skills, body language, and self-confidence.

By the early 1980s, many CEOs were starting in their companies' television adverts and becoming almost as well-known as J.K. of Dallas. The days of the low profile executive were over when corporate chiefs began to groom their successors by hiring

outside consultants to coach them in style, appearance, and speech. The insecure and the ambitious who were not given in-house grooming, rushed to firms with names like Putting It All Together, Face Facts, Ideal Image, whose professional goal is, as they put it, to help individual clients reverse any negative self-perceptions and project the image of their choice through the medium of their wardrobe.

Their services include one-on-one sessions in wardrobe planning, colour analysis, hair styling, make up, and skin care. They do not remake, but modify what you have. Dress/image consultants are also personal shoppers who scout department stores, boutiques, even wholesale outlets (and often

Yuppies jog at dawn with their headsets tuned to a lecture on one-minute management...

pass along discounts) in search of a new wardrobe for with male and female clients. Their fees, from \$50 to \$250 an hour, are considered cost effective in terms of the effect created and the time it saves to have an expert coordinate a client's wardrobe into "congruent outfits." The image consultants' theory is that you must dress at least one step above where you want to be because that will make things happen for you.

The persona polishing industry has produced so many upwardly mobile hopefuls with exceptionally high standards of dress and personal hygiene that merely looking great no longer guarantees success. Persuasive executives must now be able to speak resoundingly in headline sentences with metaphors, or at the very least keep an audience from nodding off. The image enhancers now most in demand are speech and public

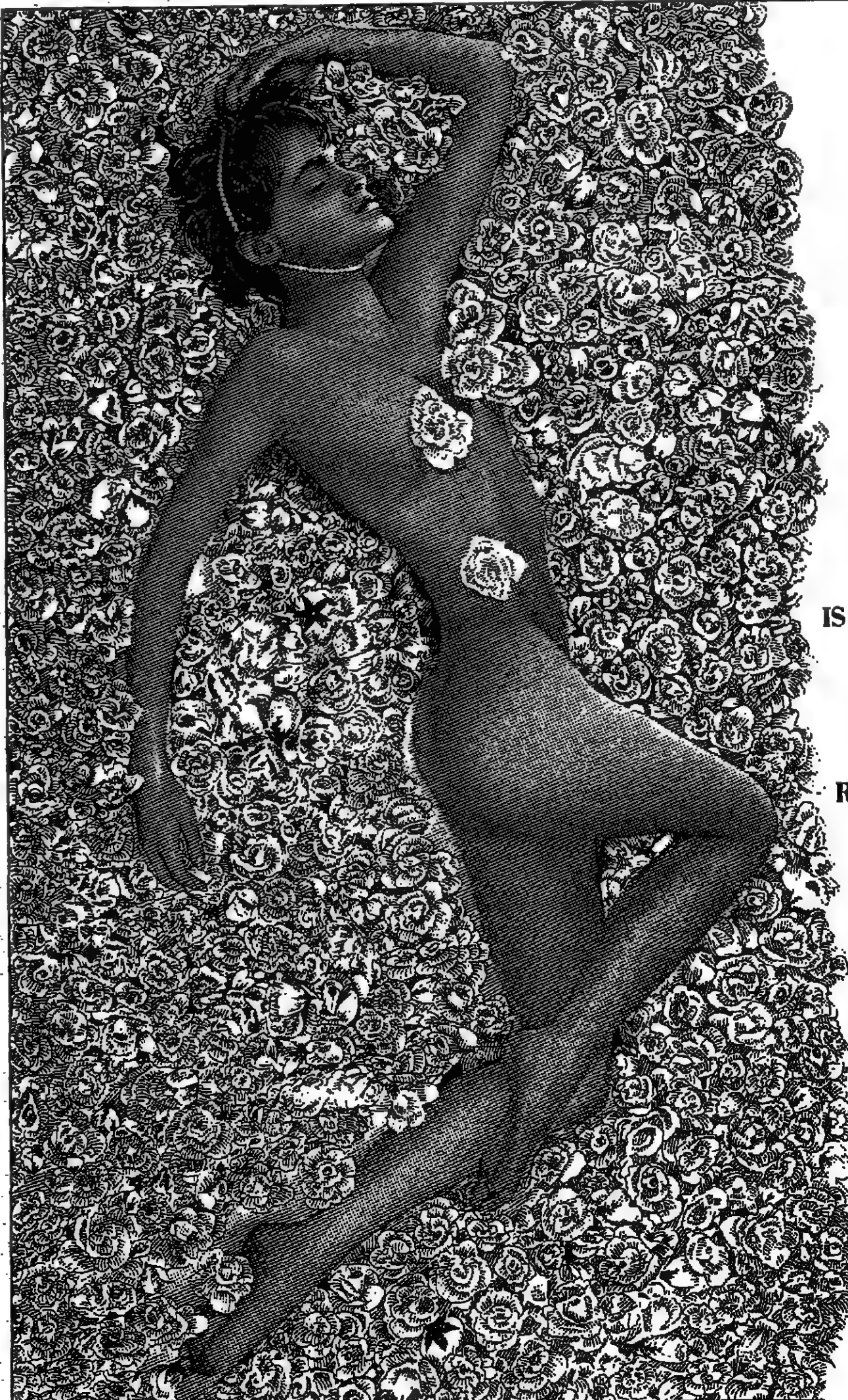
appearance consultants. Firms with names like Charisma, Commun-Vu, Inc, Speak Easy, develop verbal and written skills as well as body language techniques in workshops that focus on business presentations, sales strategies, team training, and speaking effectively on specific issues — how to make a dismal earnings report sound better than it really is.

An air of busy-ness has become a badge of success. Yuppies jog at dawn with their headsets tuned to a lecture on one minute management or the principles of international finance law. They eat while drafting a legal brief. They do call-tonging exercises while awaiting a client over the telephone, and they all flock to night school after a state-of-the-art business day.

Anticipating change is vital if you don't want to be caught with last year's lapels. A leader among trend spotters is Inferential Focus (IF), The Reagan White House and strategic planners for major corporations pay an annual \$24,000 to receive IF's reports which are published about every ten days on topics they may not necessarily find of interest to them. Focus's open-ended approach to business research, they say, is a major part of the company's appeal.

IF call themselves the CEO's Central Intelligence Agency. "We're in the discovery business," said Charles Hess, one of the four IF principals. "Each month we read some 165 seemingly unrelated periodicals, trying to detect emerging patterns in any number of different industries and spheres. Actions make statements to us. They are clues to unintended messages that change is taking place."

Right now, IF observes that everyone wants to be a hard working, hard playing 35-year-old yuppie making lots of money and making a sacred act of spending it conspicuously. The baby boomers are the focus of media and marketplace consultants, the bread and butter of the image making industry. They're all redesigning the emperor's new clothes. To them, the image is the reality.



A ROSE
IS A ROSE IS A ROSE
IS A ROSE.
(Gertrude Stein)

THE
ROMANTIC LOOK.
(Dickins & Jones)

Never alone with a strand of history

A. J. P. TAYLOR (P for Percival, a little leg-up from his father's given name of Percy) stands still on a circle of spotlight, wrapped in darkness and, tapping his fingertips together, goes into his celebrated solo act. Very much like Marlene Dietrich, his contemporary.

His clothes appear to be an oversight, a baggy jacket with leather round the left cuff from which his white (the credit to his offer "special thanks to Eva Taylor") has not succeeded in separating him. His voice is flat as the Fyde, his manner conversational, his timing a tease. He begins mildly, "Ladies and Gentlemen," covers the period of War and Peace in 20 minutes and, just when you think the old favourite has run out of track, comes foaming past the post with "And that's why the four horses of St Mark's are in St Mark's Church in Venice and not in the Louvre." It is an excellent formula: give them a first par they can't resist, a last par they can't forget and keep everything in between brief.

How Wars End (Channel 4), six lectures, looks as if he is making it up as

he goes along. This is because he is making it up as he goes along. He thinks it is a bit of a bore on television as an unscripted talk and usually discouraged. My ears still burn from a producer's scolding: "You're blabbing again!" Taylor hesitates over a date as who should say, "No, I tell a lie, it was November." Now, he says, "they were back at a peace conference once more at a place - can't remember its name..." You gasp, "Castillon," he says calmly.

He uses no visual aids. No graphics, no graphics. No pictures of Napoleon with his hat like this and Wellington with his hat like that. There is no studio audience, no sofa, no potted plant. Only an old man standing there in his working jacket. He has been lecturing like this all his life, the last 30 years on television.

It was ATV which first recognising a jewel when it saw one, set him solitary. There is no ATV now. He has outlived his format, as they imagine, by adding a portrait of Taylor which appears and

Nancy Banks-Smith on last night's television

disappears distractingly over his shoulder like Cheburek Cat. An execrable exorcism. Off with its head. All you need for a Taylor lecture is Taylor. Himself, as F. G. Woodhouse puts it, not a picture.

It is arguable that he is not as breath-taking as he used to be, but then neither is Marlene Dietrich.

Personally I blame all those stove-pipe hats for the fog in Black House (BBC 2). Forests of top hats like mill chimneys, pouring out smoke. You may have noticed that since the practice of wearing top hats was discontinued there have been no more London fogs. Need I say more?

Pog is not in itself photogenic unless illuminated. The first thought that strikes you watching Black House is an awe, "My God, who lit this?" It is my film, I wouldn't think that the

best possible reaction though it is, of course, better than "Good grief, who lit this?" Kenneth Macmillan is the lighting cameraman and visually Black House is a baby's first.

There are flashes of history light and fiery swarms of candles. The light turns Esher's hair to maroon and her dress to mahogany. Mr Skimpole's cheerful face is buttressed with light like a crumpled Lord Denning's whiskers are as bright as optical fibres. Waves of firelight and shadow sweep over Lady Denbroke's haunted face. I could look at it for hours. We can all look at it for eight hours.

The east is cream, the sets splendid. The golden young wards in Jarndyce meet under stone pillars which branch like a fossilised forest. Pterodactyls could perch on those branches and not bend them. It is very handsome indeed, and we shall see how handsome does.

Mrs Jellyby is a little surprisingly, making "Gorn" as "Krook" (Bernard Hepton) said with a croak cackle of laughter and a suddenly doused light.

No doubt the decision gave Arthur Hopcraft, who has dramatised the book beautifully, some sleepless nights and will give him more when it comes, the dispossessed no-godder himself, making a noise like a frog. TED's The Day in the Park (BBC2) was a little title suggests, rather given to that forced jollity which interests people talking about corpses. The Iron Age man was dug up - it hardly seems possible - by a man called Mordred. He chuckled it over: "ere and I said: 'It's a foot and part of a leg' and 'a' said: 'It never is' but it was."

Dr Ian Stew of the British Museum, but susceptible to envy like lesser men. The Metropolitan Police have a more expensive scanning electron microscope. A Japanese model? Guided us through the body's brief, wonderful history. His throat was cut, he was poleaxed twice, and garrotted (I would have been sorry to have missed the guest appearance of the man from the International Guild of Knot Tiers) and had worms. Two kinds. I don't know when I have met an un-luckier man.

On the border of hate

Michael Billington reviews Gombeen at the Air Gallery

SEAMUS Finnegan's Gombeen is playing at the tiny Theatre Downstairs at the Air Gallery in Rosebery Avenue) is really a lecture in the guise of a play. It argues, with the heads of sweat standing out on its brow, that the same Irish partition treaty of 1922 will never heal and that the militant Republicans in the North will never forgive their comfortable neighbours in the South. But the action frequently loses credibility and passages of rhetorical speechifying alternate with gun-toting melodrama.

Mr Finnegan shows us two dissident Belfast Republicans kidnapping a senior minister

in the Dublin government. His father, it transpires, was part of the Free State cabinet that sanctioned the execution of four Republicans in December 1920, and his abduction is intended to act as a reminder to the South of its betrayal.

How the message is to be got across is never clear. As a playability-defying volte-face, Mr Finnegan shows one of the abductors, an ex-seminarist who feels betrayed by his religious instructors, deciding to free the captive. His partner, a hate-filled, female zealot, takes violent exception to this and so once again we have the spectacle of a defiant Irish gesture subverted by dissension and betrayal.

It is a little hard to work out where Mr Finnegan stands in all this. He gives equal air-time to his three spokesmen, and he notices up some useful points, such as that the militant North regards the "cosy, bourgeois, gombeen South" with as much hatred as it does the British. In the end, I suspect he is saying that the prospect for a united Ireland is remote because the country will always be riven and divided by its history.

It seems a somewhat defeatist conclusion when set against a play like Ron Hutchinson's Rat In The Skull, which argues that the iron certainties of Irish history must one day yield to

reason. But my main objection is that character is manipulated to suit argument, and that even the most interesting case tends to pall when presented down the barrel of a gun.

Jukka Paasil's production, interspersed with red spotlights and choral music, makes deft use of the tiny space, and Valerie Bradwell, the hardened gunman, Mike Dowling as the moon-faced seminarist, and Toby Byrne as the cornered politician act with gut conviction. Plays about the Irish problem are welcome: I just wish this one reached out to a solution.

This review appeared in later editions yesterday.

BANQUETING HALL

Hugo Cole

Beethoven

BESTHOVEN'S first benefit concert, given on April 2, 1800, was certainly less well rehearsed and much longer than the Hanover Band's recreation of the event. All but the first movement of the septet and, performance, Beethoven's own improvisation, was omitted. But the concert, including an interval for an Austrian banquet, still lasted 3½ hours.

The Hanover Band, in well-fitting period costumes, provided plausibly authentic performances, but left one wondering about the high-roofed hall itself, in which the final chord of Mozart's G Minor Symphony lingered for about a second and a half. The rococo ornamentation in the Burghleithur would certainly have absorbed more of the echoes.

This was the least satisfactory performance of the evening - speeds of outer movements were unrealistically fast for the hall, balance was weighted against violins, so that relatively uninteresting supporting parts often claimed first attention. The music was under-phrased and little shaped, as is inevitable when such a subtly articulated and coloured work is played without either a conductor or conductor or the intensive rehearsal that chamber music players give to their work.

Beethoven's more robust genius fared better, with Mary Verney as soloist in the First Piano Concerto, which came over lightly,

brightly, and in the finale pleasantly ruddy. The sound of the 1800 piano is an acquired taste, and there were moments - notably in the approach to the recapitulation in the first movement - where one longed for rounder, more open sounds. But whether by virtue of authenticity or unfamiliarity, the music was freshened up for us.

With Monica Ruggett directing from the first violin desk, ensemble was as good as in any conducted orchestra. Beethoven's First Symphony, now a familiar piece for this group, also went excellently, with some distinguished woodwind playing. Helen Field and Ian Caddy, the soloists in two extracts from Haydn's Creation, gave spirited, almost optimistic performances, the music delivered at full twentieth-century strength.

SWANSEA
David Adams

Love At A Pinch

PROVINCIAL touring comedies are notoriously dire and I suspect that Ian Masters's sex comedy currently at Swansea's Grand Theatre would appear predictably able and weak if it weren't for the work put in by a company directed by that comic actor and writer, Jimmy Thompson. Between them they managed to turn something worse than enjoyable into a reasonably enjoyable evening.

I also suspect that the presence of Ruth Maddock in

the cast had a lot to do with it. Elsewhere in Britain, her Welsh chambermaid vamp would seem about par for the script, but here she's nearly on home ground and was able to joke with the stereotype so that the humour was shared with the audience.

The other TV stars of past and present were also allowed to take over their roles and perform their specialty characters up to a point: Norman Vaughan, Jack Douglas, and Michael Knowles all improved on their parts so that Love At A Pinch's title tale of mistaken identities and marital infidelities was summed in comic performances of varying styles.

The sexual innuendo and double meanings border on the offensive but stop just short, and it's thanks really to the relaxed style of the cast.

At first there was that sense of desperation in performance from a cast who know that there's more than the usual reliance on them to keep the show afloat. But it melted into the sort of farce where the audience felt it was being allowed to participate in the nonsense.

BATH
David Foot

The Corn Is Green

IT CANNOT be avoided: the central role in Emylia Williams's The Corn Is Green at Bath's Theatre Royal is a disaster of miscasting. Forget

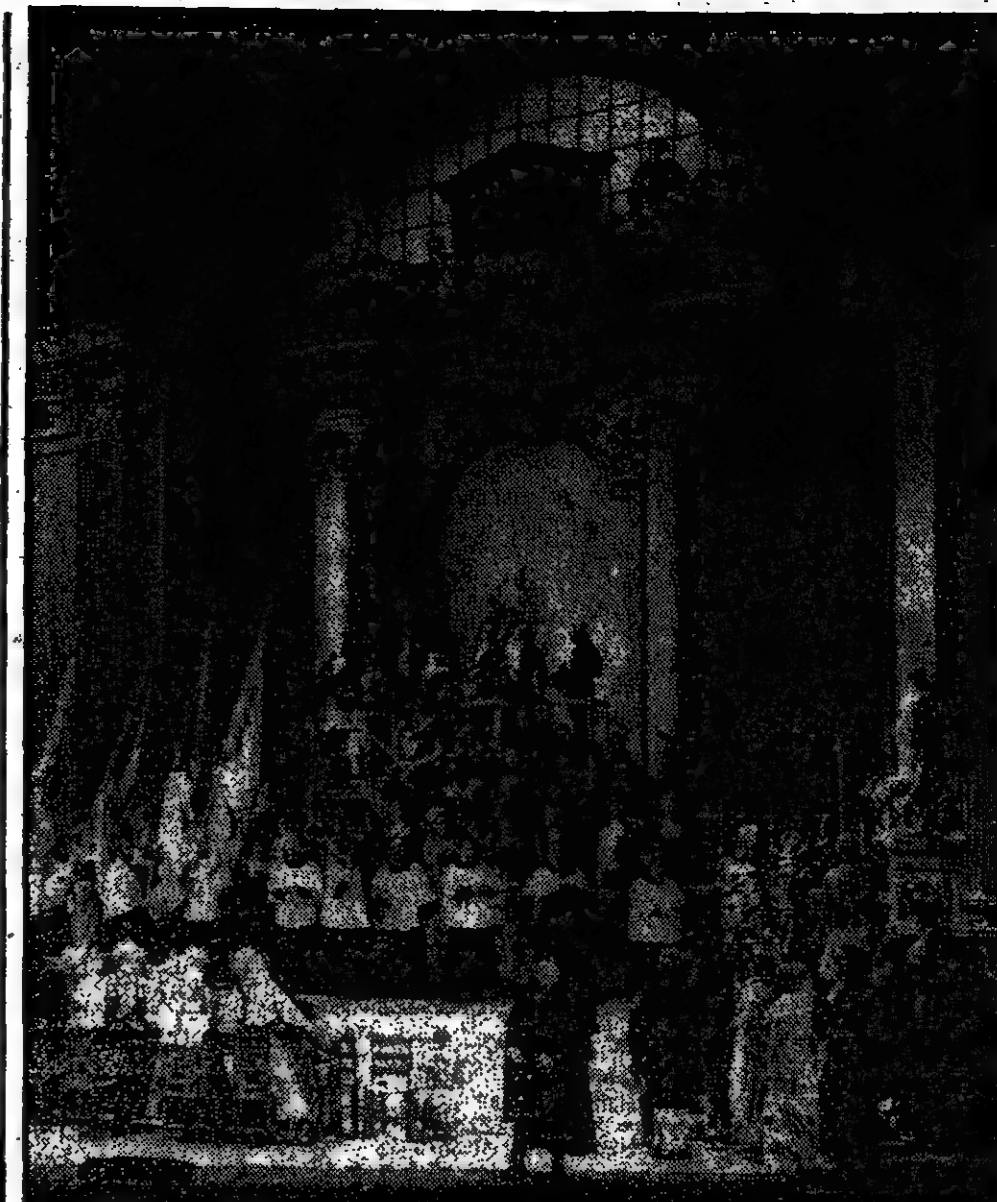
the traumatic number of prompts, which had mercifully lessened by the second night. But Deborah Kerr, whatever the distinction of her film career, is nowadays, it seems, ill-equipped to take on Miss Moffat, the stern bright-eyed teacher who will herself to educate a late-Victorian Welsh village community.

Her acting skills labour in a straitjacket of inhibition and uncertainty. There is a virtually non-existent register of emotions and we see, alas, none of Miss Moffat's exciting idealism. Only in her final moments with Morgan, the lad she has successfully coached for an Oxford place, does it really work and we sense the extent of what we have missed.

The play has a timeless and sensitive appeal, yet its weakness is that Emilia Williams was rather too consciously writing about herself. He got too literary, almost pompous, at times. The Welsh authenticity is vital and the production doesn't fail on that count.

It is especially true of George Winter's gawky maturing Morgan, of William Thomas's chapel-obsessed Mr Jones, and the assortment of coal-grained pupils. The emerging radiation is said to be at the expense of the Squire, played as a nice, glibbie buffoon by Allan Cuthbertson.

Apart from George Winter, the likeliest studies come from the rascals: Bessie (Imelda Staunton) and her light-hearted Mimi (Bridget Turner), with Elizabeth Counsell making the best of repressed passion. The play spoke for the times and the passages of sheer melodrama - even a child "without a father" - were not theatrically misplaced.



Fighting for attention - one of Zeffirelli's vast sets for Tosca at the Met

Dale Harris reports from New York

Tosca's tourist trap

GEORGE BALANCHINE once complained that there was so much to look at in Franco Zeffirelli's staging of Puccini's opera that he couldn't hear the music. One could say the same about the Met's new Tosca at the Met.

This production is so packed with detail and so fast in scale that Puccini's music seems merely an adjunct to what is essentially a travelogue about Rome in 1800 - or, at least, about three of its architectural highlights: Sant'Andrea della Valle, the Palazzo Farnese, and the Castel Sant'Angelo.

There is a certain amount of dramatic action taking place within these opulent-looking locations, but Zeffirelli evidently doesn't want anything human to interfere with the sightseeing.

In Act 1, it's true, Sant'Andrea is packed with people, both clerical and lay, but since every last one of them is kept busy acting to the hit, even when Bessie Scarpia is meant to be the focus of our attention, we are forced to conclude that Zeffirelli is more interested in local colour than in drama. In Act 2, which is supposed to take place in the middle of June, we have a rather sinister fire-casting flickering shadows and lights around the room to take our minds off the principals.

But it is in Act 3 that the producer achieves his greatest diversionary triumph. Instead of bringing Cavaradossi up to the roof of the Castel Sant'Angelo to await his execution, as the composer and his librettists intended, Zeffirelli effects an elaborate scene change right in front of our eyes, taking us down into the bowels of the fortress to see the hero in his cell. Not only does this ruin Puccini's careful scene-painting, it also gives the Met's patrons, who love to applaud the décor, a perfect opportunity

to compete successfully with the music.

On opening night, the moment the scenery began to move, and long before it was possible to make out what the new set was going to look like, the audience delivered itself of an ovation, presumably directed at the stage manager.

They could, of course, have been expressing their gratitude for being thus distracted. Giuseppe Simonelli, making his operatic debut in the United States, had shown so cavalier an attitude toward the music during the first and second acts that the audience might have wanted, just for a minute or two, to drown the orchestra. Simonelli is a highly talented conductor, especially adept at producing beautiful sounds from the pit. But he seems much less interested in realising the composer's intentions than in demonstrating his own originality in matters of tempo, phrasing, and orchestral textures.

Against the obstacles supplied by Zeffirelli and Simonelli, only Plácido Domingo was able to triumph. Warm of voice and generous of spirit, he made a handsome Cavaradossi. Cornell MacNeil, on the other hand, was an ineffectual Scarpia, though the enunciation of the Italian text put that of everyone else on stage to shame. As for Hildegard Behring, she could do nothing with the libretto, for which she was neither the right kind of voice nor temperament.

While the production of Porgy and Bess could hardly be called more successful than that of Tosca, Gershwin's folk-opera, which has taken half a century to make the journey from Broadway to the Met - left a far stronger impression. That it did so owed much to the efforts of James Levine, whose conducting, warm in spirit and rhythmically vibrant, carried the work to success and confounded the sceptics.

Heard in a great opera house, Gershwin's work, for all its lapses of style and limitations of musical means, came across as a fully achieved work of art - especially when compared to a piece of hokum like Zandonai's Francesca da Rimini, recently produced at the Met. Gershwin's genius, of course, is above all melody, and it is this element that gives the work its ultimate distinction.

One thing made clear by the Met's Porgy and Bess, albeit inadvertently, is that



Warm and generous - Plácido Domingo as Cavaradossi

the work needs more imagination and poetry when it comes to the staging. Unfortunately, Nathaniel Merrill and Robert O'Hearn, the famous production team of Rudolf Bing, never got beyond the clichés of showbiz and so the piece looked a great deal cheaper than it needed to. At times, one had the distinct feeling that both director and designer had confused the work with Showboat.

Luckily, a great deal of the staging on the first night was excellent, especially from the secondary characters. Simon Estes made a capable Porgy, though his voice is not really up to Met standards in either size or vibrancy. Grace Bumbry's voice most certainly is, but her portrayal of Bess was marred by her seeming inability to forget, even briefly, that she is a bona fide prima donna.

In line with the conditions imposed by the Gershwin estate, the Met had to hire a special black chorus and a great number of black extras. The result was greater literal authenticity, but, for a house that in the past few years has become a virtuoso colour-blind, the move seemed retrogressive.

Robin Denslow reviews the rock releases

Go-go sets a fashion

AWAY from the White House and the white areas housing the lawyers and diplomats, Washington DC is very much a black city, and some of the ghettoes start remarkably close to the President's back garden. From black Washington, over the past three years, there has come a new dance music known as go-go, that has gradually edged New York's rap and scratch scene out of style and at last put the so-called Chocolate City into fashion.

Go-Go Crankin' (Fourth and Broadway) is a compilation of some of the best go-go tracks to date, that until now have mostly been available only as singles, eagerly sought by club DJs. Bands like Hot Cold Sweat, Chuck Brown and the Soul Searchers, and (best of all) Trouble Funk, may not yet be well known outside the dance-halls, but like rap before it, go-go will break through to a wider market.

The music is a wild fusion of all the up-tempo black styles of the past two decades, with a strong portion of James Brown funk mixed in with a dash of rap, hefty percussion that often borrows from African styles, sometimes jazzy horns, and chanting vocals over the top. The songs tend to be long, lively, involve crowd effects and catch phrases, and give the impression that Washington is one exhausting party.

Trouble Funk (who also have an album of their own on the PRT/Sugarhill label) contribute the three best party tracks, Let's Get Small, Drop The Bomb, and Say What I, while other go-go favourites are Hot Cold Sweat's clattering, chanting Meet Me At The Go-Go and Chuck Brown's funky and jazzy We Need Some Money, a reminder that Washington has another side that most tourists don't see.

Tom Petty: Southern Accents (MCA). The cover shows a rural mid-19th century painting entitled The Veteran in A New Field, and that just about sums up this fascinatingly uneven set by one of the great American heroes of the Seventies.

He's trying to come to terms with the mid-Eighties in two ways. On some tracks he pays tribute to his Southern roots (he's originally from Florida), with classic American anthems like Rebels, or country-tinged ballads like the title track or the solid finale, The Best Of Everything, which was co-produced by the late Robertson of The Band fame. But on three other tracks he seems more keen to develop an English accent, as he finds a most unlikely writing and producing partner in Dave Stewart of the Eurythmics.

Stewart has a predictably odd effect on Petty, so the man famous for grand, chiming ballads like Refugee now uses gently clattering electronic drums, tinkling star, and girl singers on a clever but curious pop song, Don't Come Round Here No More. Elsewhere, Stewart helps Petty rediscover his funk roots on It Ain't Nothing To Me and Make It Better, in which the funk merges into a rock anthem.

If all that wasn't enough, Petty also adds in a slinky, sexy disco track, Spike, on which he sounds like JJ Cale. I'm not quite sure that he's trying to do at the moment, but there's more than enough here to make it worth checking out.

Paul Young: The Secret of Association (CBS). Already a best-seller, and deservedly so, Paul Young's second album wisely follows the formula of the first, with his soulful, classy voice matched by the lush, but never over-the-top production work of Laurie Latham. Three of the songs here have already been best-sellers, and include the wonderfully wild, crashing production of I'm Gonna Tear Your Playhouse Down.

But to prove that he is not playing safe, Young does include some surprises. There's a smoothed-over version of Tom Waits's brilliant, atmospheric Soldier's Things, that doesn't match the original but at least captures the spirit, and there are also a couple of songs co-written by Paul, to prove he's not just a great interpreter. The best of these, One Step Forward, is a tough but exquisite ballad, a soldier's lament in the same style as the folksy finale, Gavin Sutherland's I Was in Chains.

Gram Parker and The Shot: Steady Nerves (Elektra). Back in the Seventies he was everybody's hero, a singer rated as an equal to Elvis Costello, and the natural choice to open for Bob Dylan on his 1978 show at Blackbird. Since then, Parker split from his backing band of great pub-rock veterans, The Rumour, spent most of his time in America, and deservedly felt out of fashion for producing sub-standard albums. Now he's back with a new band, that includes The Rumour's Brinsley Schwarz, and a new album that at least captures the enthusiasm of his early work, even if it doesn't offer all that much new.

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MOVIE GUARDIAN

Gerry Donaldson reports on the Antwerp Festival

Thong and dance

ANTWERP may not figure in the major league of European film festivals but it is certainly distinctive. This year's expanded and non-competitive festival included a weighty tribute to the Japanese cinema of the last two decades and the now almost obligatory retrospective of Powell and Pressburger.

Most attention was nevertheless directed towards the large number of US independents invited and, in spite of the Benelux premieres of *The Brother From Another Planet*, *Repo Man* and *This Is Spinal Tap*, already well known here, it was the films which cut into rather than scratched the surface of the American psyche which impressed most, led by a trio of outstanding documentaries.

Dances Sacred and Profane (Mark and Dan Jury) seems destined for cultdom. It is an extraordinary odyssey, four years in the making, in which the film-makers dogged the footsteps of social anthropologist Charles Gatewood as he explored the American sub-culture.

From the Belle de Jour salon in New York via Naked City, Indiana and the overground orgy that calls itself *New Orleans Mardi Gras*, the film brings us finally to a mountain top in Wyoming, where a man is to perform the Sioux Indian Sundance ceremony. Earlier we have seen the same man, Fakir Musafar, re-enact a Hindu wife in a Hindu temple, while in the final almost limitless plying of his body. Now we see him suspended from a cottonwood tree by thongs attached to his pectorals.

What Richard Harris faked in *A Man Called Horse*, Fakir Musafar, a white Californian businessman and "modern primitive," does for real in order to communicate with the Great Spirit. As the New Orleans reveler seeks to get out of his mind for whatever purpose, so Fakir Musafar seeks to get out of his body to be closer to Maker.

Charles Gatewood's talking head interviews mercifully avoid sociological interpretation but rather invite mature consideration of what we have witnessed. Like all good documentarists, the Jurys point an unblinking camera and let the images speak for themselves. The unblinking viewer has astonishing images etched on to the retina. Not easily erased and nor should they be; a testament to an illuminating, provocative, and unique work.

Templing as it will be to promote it as a kind of *Mondo Cane* one hopes that its eventual British distributor records this excellent film with the respect that its makers accorded their subjects.

Before *Stonewall*, directed by Greta Schiller, is a compilation of the homosexual experience in America using filmed recollections, archive footage and the documentation of the sub-culture itself.

A low-key piece it induces compassion without inviting it. Too late of course for the ageing and uncompensating inhabitants of the demimonde reminding us that "gay" had not yet been requisitioned.

The *Stonewall* of Schiller's film is a Greenwich Village bar, whose storming by New York police in 1969 became the watershed of the Gay Rights movement. *Stonewall* is depicted in microcosm in *The Times Of Harvey Milk* (Robert Epstein and Richard Schmiechen) in which the eponymous central figure, a San Francisco camera shop owner with an interest in neighbourhood politics, finds himself elected to the city Board of Supervisors, the first openly homosexual individual to achieve such office. Together with the mayor, Milk was in the forefront of the campaign to maintain the civil rights of the gay community against the Anita Bryant-inspired moral crusade. For their pains both were murdered by a fellow politician, whose derisory sentence provoked a crisis on the streets and in the city Justice Department.

An ordinary man who simply sought to improve the lot of his fellow man, Harvey Milk's memory is nobly served by a very powerful and affecting movie, which during the Antwerp Festival became one of the more deserving winners of Academy Awards when it landed the "Best Documentary" prize.

In the mainstream, by far the best film of the festival was *Stig Bjorkman's Behind The Shutters*, a neat, devious thriller set in Morocco, in which Erlend Josephson as a soon-to-be-divorced writer constructs fantasies from his jealousies about his wife and the striking Italian blonde in the apartment opposite.

Domiziana Giordano (also seen alongside Josephson in *Tarkovsky's Nostalgia*) steps bravely from a Botticelli painting to entice the increasingly smitten writer who is drawn into a labyrinth of which he is the principal architect. A murder is discovered — or is it? Bjorkman bows very low to Vertigo, tips a wink to *Blow Up* and thumbs his nose at *Don't Look Now* but still stamps the film with his own stamp. It is too. A knowing, sly, of directorial muscles flexing, perhaps, but a cool and absorbing entertainment.



Through the mists of time — Gorgy Coerhalmi, right, in *A Very Moral Night*, a scene from *Unfinished Piece For Mechanical Piano*

Tim Palleine reviews the week's releases — *A Very Moral Night*, *Unfinished Piece For Mechanical Piano*, *Living Planet*, *In The Name Of The People*, and *Leila And The Wolves*

Tricks of the red light trade

BROKEN MIRRORS last week provided a view of life in a brothel that was to put it mildly, baffling. This week, Karoly Mak's period piece *A Very Moral Night* (Berkeley, 15) offers us a markedly different perspective on the same subject.

No doubt a thesis will someday be written, assuming it does not already exist, on the cinema of the oldest profession, which stretches back easily to the Griffith era. Particular attention would doubtless be paid to those post-war French policiers in which "spying" stories were snatched from the clutches of white-slavery in productions with titles like *The Width Of The Pavement*. There were even British imitations, such as *The Flesh Is Weak*, with John Derek (now husband of Bob) as the ash-hup, submitting his victims even as they stepped off the boat train, which somehow managed, one recalls, to arrive at St Pancras.

On the other hand, there

have been any number of semi-comic romps and bitter-sweet anecdotes, generally in costume, in reference to these, the okay same tends to be Maupassant, though the mood has most often been of Maupassant pumped full of confectioner's cream.

It is to this generally not very distinguished lineage that *A Very Moral Night* belongs. It is a Hungarian film set at the turn of the century and looks back at the good old-fashioned days in an unambiguous haze of nostalgia.

The small town bordello around which it revolves is a jolly-seeming home from home, with haute cuisine on the menu and the ladies passing their leisure hours in striking semi-nude poses as if they expected Renoir or even the ghost of Rubens to drop in at any moment. A medical student, living on money from home but able to stretch it to the pleasures of the flesh, is among the clientele, and for no very apparent reason, the madame

offers him cut-price board and lodging. Soon he is living the life of Riley, accompanying the girls on picturesque picnics, and summarily demanding breakfast in bed — no truck here, of course, with scruples about sexism.

Before long, though, his elderly mum turns up for an unexpected visit, and we all fall to fall about as the silly old trout is tricked into believing that her son is living in the bosom of respectability. The premise is almost that of farce, but the speed and invention are missing.

A Very Moral Night is sometimes pretty to look at, and as a post-prandial diversion it might have something to offer. But considering that one of its writers is Peter Bacso, writer-director of the mordant satire *The Witness*, one can't help feeling that the project is rather a waste of talent. And considering that the film was made as long ago as 1977, one can't help wondering why it was deemed worth taking off the shelf this late in the day.

A more substantial Eastern European costume movie is the Soviet film *Unfinished Piece For Mechanical Piano*, showing at the National Film Theatre (matinee, April 15-16) in a season devoted to the work of its director, Nikita Mikhalkov.

This is a free adaptation of Chekhov's early play *Platonov*, though in some respects the model it may bring to mind is Eugene O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, and not only in the literal sense that it begins at breakfast-time and progresses to the following dawn.

Sometimes the journey does feel rather long and a degree of torpor attends the tragicomic round of soul-searching and self-disclosure compounded in the earlier stages by problem sorting — but that said, the film is fluently mounted, with some unobtrusively mobile camerawork conspiring to ward off stagnation in what properly remains a theatrical spirit.

One is struck by the extent to which the action, unfolding at a lakeside summer house, seems to assume an independent life, unhampered by symbolism. The quality of ensemble playing substantially contributes to this and it may well reflect the extensive acting background of the director, who appears in a subsidiary role.

If sheer physical spectacle is what you're after, one place to find it is on the gigantic Imax screen at the National Museum of Photography in Bradford. *Living Planet* (directed by Francis Thompson) is in content no more than a conventional round-the-world travelogue, but its imagery has a depth and clarity that take the breath away and manage to convince that bigger really is better.

Whether a system as all-embracing as this could be used to tackle anything resembling a conventional narrative, or indeed to the demands of complex editing, must remain an open question, though the

prospect of, say, an Imax 2,001 is an exciting prospect. But in terms of re-awakening a sense of wonder at what moving pictures can achieve, *Living Planet*, with its swooping and titling vistas of landscape and architecture, is more than enough to be going on with.

Possibly acute vertigo sufferers would be advised to close their eyes during the helicopter shot which peers down into the concrete canyons of Manhattan; but anyone else within striking distance of Bradford should think of taking in an experience which seemed to me a good deal more exciting than I remember finding Cinerama in childhood.

The American documentary *In The Name Of The People* showing at the Rio, Dalston, as part of the London Latin American Festival, is an impression — filmed obviously under conditions of considerable risk — of life with a unit of the FMLN guerrillas in El Salvador.

One or two incidents, like the curious military-style wedding of two of the members, have an air of being staged for the camera. But much of the film, both in interviews and direct reportage, has a raw and painful immediacy, and the effect is redoubled by a closing announcement that several of the people we have been watching are no longer alive. *Leila And The Wolves* (Gate), directed by Helny Sprut, purports to deal with "the collective memory of Arab women and their hidden role in the recent history of Palestine and Lebanon." This may sound somewhat forbidding but comes out rather muddled.

The assorted episodes are none too convincingly staged but they don't take on emblematic weight either. It is perhaps only when the camera surveys vistas of devastation in Beirut, with a contemplative vividness that converts them in nightmarish action paintings, that the film exerts an imaginative grip.

Helen Oldfield takes a scornful look at the new line in TV double acts Model cop steps out of the closet

THERE used to be a rule of thumb for American thrillers: if there was plenty of violence but very few deaths, like *The A-Team*, it was fantasy, kids' stuff, suitable for early evening viewing; if people died profusely and gruesomely, even leaving behind grieving relatives, then it was realism, Bill Street Blues-style.

Cover Up, the BBC's new American import which begins with an hour and a half pilot tonight, and continues with the first episode of a series the following night, is a new kind of hybrid. Jennifer O'Neill, undeniable glamorous but of a certain age, plays a fashion photographer cum-undercover agent; her sidekick, Jon-Erik Hexum, a Prince Andrew look-alike with a sub-Schwarzenegger build, is a decorated soldier turned reluctant male model.

Together they travel from one exotic location to another — La Costa, a kind of deodorised El Salvador, on Thursday, Italy on Friday — making the way there plenty of mayhem and death all right, but it's also pure fantasy. The question is, for whom?

Ostensibly the role reversal — where she's the leader and he's the sex object — suggests a bow to feminism. I doubt if many women will be cheering. True there's no father-figure controlling the new daredevil woman, as there was in Charlie's Angels, and still is in the new IT series, CATS Eyes, but Miss O'Neill, as aggressively sexy in her tailored suits and décolleté dresses is more of a dominatrix than the female saviour to Clint Eastwood.

What we have here is a closet gay fantasy. The more Mac Harper — Hexum's character — piles on his macho credentials, his marksman-like aim, his tireless gallantry, his overwhelming attraction for the villainess, the more he looks like an auxiliary member of the Village People. Just as his modelling assignments provide a cover for his secret agent activities so they offer a splendid excuse for him to pose, moody and magnificent in a string vest, like a centre-piece in a muscle and beauty magazine.



Global village person — Jon-Erik Hexum, as Mac Harper in *Cover Up*

The sublimated gay fantasy originated in the buddy movies like *Butch Cassidy and The Sundance Kid*, with those copper-bottomed dreamboats for either sex, Redford and Newman, and flowered in the extended but never explicit male love affairs in *Splash* and *Butch and The Professor*. Miami Vice, the latest in the genre, throws in a style and dress sense borrowed from gay culture.

Cover Up has the style but dispenses with the buddy. However, as Adam Mars-Jones points out in the introduction to the collection of

gay fiction he edited, *Mac West Is Dead*, long-standing emotional attachments play no part in the idealised gay sub-culture portrayed at the pulpy end of gay literature. In a devastating critique of *Vermilion*, a best-selling American gay thriller, Mars-Jones implies that Daniel, the hero, is a cop-out because he depends on a battery of "allies" to justify his way of life. In fact, from his description, Daniel, aside from his avowed gayness, could be a role model for Mac Harper — his expression was one of self-confident, easeful

strength," he is more desirous than desiring, he is attractive to both men and women, he doesn't indulge in camp and he is exonerated of all taint of narcissism (compare Harper's distaste at being a professional clotheshorse).

Cover Up is a cop-out too. Why don't they come clean and make Mac an honest-to-god gay and Dan Reynolds (Jennifer O'Neill) more a creditable woman and less a tag bag? Of course, if they did, the series might turn into a proper drama instead of a ratings-hungry ride into dreamland.

BRIEFING

Best films

La Belle et le Bete (Everyman). Revival in new print of Cocteau's wonderfully luminous poetic fantasy. *Wetherby* (Curzon West End). Gripping and stylish feature debut by David Hare with remarkable central performance by Vanessa Redgrave. *A Soldier's Story* (Release). Murder mystery with background of black US Army unit in last war: impressive despite elements of glibness and theatricality.

Carmen (Lumiere). Francesco Rosi's swaggering cinematic approach to the Bizet opera. *Baby-Secret Of The Last Legend* (Odeon, Marble Arch). Fast-moving enjoyable junior movie about discovery of prehistoric craters. *Amadeus* (ABC Shaftesbury Avenue). Milos Forman's commandingly opened out version of the Peter Schaffer play — laden with Oscars, but don't let that put you off.

Best on TV

Memphis Belle (Today, C4, 6.10). William Wyler's justly celebrated WW2 documentary impression of a Flying Fortress bombing raid over Germany. *Miss Me Kate* (Friday, BBC-2, 6pm). Lively MGM version of the Cole Porter musical, originally made in 3D. *Long Shot* (Friday, C4, 11.20). Engaging low-budget British comedy from Maurice Haton about the pitfalls of movie-making.

She (Saturday, C4, 2pm). Stylish and effective 1935 version of the Rider Haggard story, more persuasive than the later remake. *Dr Cyclops* (Saturday, C4, 3.45). Mad scientist farzoq directed by Ernest Schoedsack (co-maker of King Kong): curiosity value.

Moonfleet (Sunday, BBC-1, 3pm). Beautifully stylish Gothic melodrama directed in Cinemascope by Fritz Lang in 1955. *You're a Big Boy Now* (Tuesday, BBC-2, 9pm). Zany 1967 comedy by Francis Coppola, which may have dated to interesting effect.

Western Union (Wednesday, BBC-2, 5.30). More Fritz Lang: a bold authoritative and underrated western in splendid Technicolor (1941).

New on video

CIC releases include Hitchcock's *The Man Who Knew Too Much*, DeMille's *Samson and Delilah*, Burt Kennedy's *The Deserter*, and hitherto

not shown here, Michael Mann's *The Keep*.

Special interest

TWO Guardian Lectures are being held this weekend at the National Film Theatre on Saturday evening, animator Richard Williams is the guest, and he is followed on Sunday afternoon by no less than Charles Heston.

Elsewhere in the NPT programme, the season of movies originally celebrated in *Cahiers du Cinema* includes *Ray's Bitter Victory* (Saturday) and *Mann's The Man From Laramie* (Tuesday), while the Warren Beatty season takes in *Bonnie and Clyde* (Sunday) and *Stevens' The Only Game in Town* (Tuesday).

The Scala, Kings Cross, shows Fritz Lang's *M* and Charles Laughton's *Night Of The Hunter*, on Tuesday. At the Ritzy, Brixton, where the *Killing Fields* continues until April 20, the Sunday matinee is Bertolucci's 1990.

Outside London, David Hare's *Wetherby* can be seen next week at Bradford Film Theatre, where the Monday performance will be attended

by producer Simon Relf and actress Joely Richardson, and from tonight at the Watershed, Bristol, where Judi Dench will appear at tomorrow's performance.

At the Tivoli, Eastbourne, two notable silent films can be seen with live piano accompaniment, *Murnau's Sunrise* tomorrow and *Hitchcock's The Ring* on Saturday. Chapter, Cardiff, shows a selection of Looney Tunes cartoons until Saturday, and the Ealing Dead Of Night is an appropriate late-night showing tomorrow and Saturday. Nottingham Film Theatre has James Ivory's *The Bostonians* from tomorrow to Sunday, and the Sunday matinee is Teshigahara's *The Face Of Another*. The Arts, Cambridge, shows Alex Cox's *Repo Man* until April 20.

The Tyneside Cinema, Newcastle, has a four-part screening of the 16-hour German epic *Heimat*, beginning on Saturday, and continuing on Sunday and the subsequent weekend.

Tim Palleine

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Stalemate in the staffrooms

The sea air proved bracing this Easter-tide. But not too bracing. Specifically it left assorted teachers' unions bracing themselves for a significant, though strictly controlled, escalation of their pay dispute. Even so, more schools are to be hit, longer and harder than they have been over the past couple of months. If the words of Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the largest union, the NUT, are any guide, then examination classes will no longer be exempt. Teacher may, of course, invigilate, collect papers and, where appropriate, mark them. But if, in the crucial run-up to examination day, shepherds are called upon to abandon their flocks to freelance revision at home or on the street corner: so be it.

Compare and contrast this: Schoolmasters and Women Teachers who pounce briefly into the same examination abyss and then backed away. A judgment which measures their sense of responsibility and the cool realities of power rather than any lack of anger. Even so, taking a leaf out of Scotland's book, schools in the constituencies of appropriate Tory ministers and backbenchers will come in for a caning. (Watch it, Finchley.) So will schools in selected Conservative county councils. (Watch it, Hampshire, where the verbally aggressive education committee chairman also leads the management team on Burnham.)

All of which is a curate's egg. Set aside the obvious dicing with the futures of children as varied as those determined to make it to Oxbridge and those struggling against the odds to scrape together a handful of CSEs. The tactical gamble is over public perceptions. Will suburban mothers, forced either to cancel jobs or to allow their youngsters to run wild three days a week, happily make their marks for the local Alliance or Labour candidates in protest at Sir Keith's intransigence? Will *Homo Finchleyensis* blame the Prime Minister and her acolytes for endangering young Charles' "A" levels, just as middle class fathers raised merry hell for the Tories when university grants came under egalitarian threat? Or will they shrug their shoulders, decide that long haired, badge wearing pedagogues and Sir Keith deserve each other and, the best thing to do on balance is to cast an increasingly fed-up vote in some anti-Conservative direction?

To ask such questions is to undermine the simple fact that teachers are not on to an obvious winner. They could yet lose the significant public support they have built up. Even if it is retained, they could still be "seen off" just as the miners were. But seeing off teachers at the expense of their pupils is no answer to the increasingly urgent answer to the problems both of teachers' pay or of educational funding. It is easy — and correct — to say that all teachers are underpaid but some teachers are more underpaid than others and that the biggest problems are some way up the scale. Easy, too, to smile at the remarks of the shadow Education spokesman, Mr Giles Radice, who said, in effect, that Labour would conduct a thumping great enquiry into teachers' pay — and then stagger the results!

Yet it is in Radice's solution that the solution to this sorry dispute lies and it is only the Education Secretary who can take the initiative. Otherwise the dispute, broken backed, perhaps, is going to run and run and there will be precious little glory in a drag out victory for government. There is still time for Sir Keith to offer a procedure and a package which provides significant improvement up and down the scale in return for movement on new contracts and in-service assessment. And, after this week's votes, the reasons why he should move are reasons of common sense and compassionate management.

Cream at the top

Teachers are being held to 4 per cent: civil servants have been offered 4.4 per cent: the Government has made no secret of its desire to abolish the wages councils in order to make low pay even lower. Meanwhile, life at the top is much more bearable. Already this week has brought news of a 230,000 rise for 39-year-old Mr Michael Ashcroft who runs, among other things, Dolphin Showers and Alpine — at a double glazed salary. It was also revealed that Sir Francis Tumbles, chairman of Turner and Newall, has collected a £180,000 bonus for passing Go. This is merely the latest run of the executive gravy train whose passengers in recent weeks have included the chairman of ICI (up 68 per cent to £287,351) and the chairman of BP (up 32 per cent to £241,547) plus quite phenomenal increases for freshly de-nationalised boards, instant proof that privatisation pays.

Such increases come on top of the sharp reductions in the higher rates of

taxation introduced by the 1979/83 Conservative government, giving higher earners an unprecedented increase in take-home pay as part of a policy to restore incentives. Many of the recent increases are related to the 1984 Finance Act which exempted employee option schemes that had earned Revenue approval from income tax. Others are related to the performance of profits.

The gearing of income to profits sounds good in theory. If the right person is appointed the company can gain enormously. But in practice it often means that top pay goes up for quite fortuitous reasons like currency fluctuations, cyclical movements in the economy and sudden scarcities of commodities. In cases where profit-related bonuses are a high proportion of income they could add pressure for the wrong sort of decision — that which maximises short term profitability rather than something (like a new capital investment) where the eventual payoff would be beyond the horizons of current remuneration.

There seems two particular lessons. First, if there is an argument that people do better if their pay is linked to the fortunes of the company, then it applies right down the line from directors to office cleaners. Profit sharing was never intended as a means of featherbedding directors.

Second, if British directors need a single quality it is leadership. And leaders don't preach one thing and practise another. If there is a national need to prevent wage increases from starting another inflationary spiral, then it is outrageous for directors to be saying this on the back of monstrously big — and often unearned — increases in their own pay. The message from the boardroom should be simple; the bucks stop — or at least slow down — here.

The French dislocation

The French Government's well-telegraphed decision to introduce proportional representation in time for next year's parliamentary election has taken even less time to backfire than the most convinced sceptics predicted. Designed to prevent the opposition of the right from winning an absolute majority in the National Assembly (at least without the shame of an alliance with the neo-Fascist National Front), its first and most spectacular effect has been to split the ruling Socialist Party. The most dramatic early consequence was the abrupt and unexpected resignation from the Cabinet of Mr Michel Rocard, the highly popular and widely respected Minister of Agriculture.

culture and leader of the Socialist right. The abandoned parliamentary voting system was based on simple majorities in each constituency, as in Britain, with the added refinement of the second round in any seat where nobody got an absolute majority in the first. This enabled the French to vote with their hearts in the first round and with their heads in the second when they could see which way the wind was blowing. This rule imposed a two-bloc (as distinct from a two-party) system on a country previously renowned for its plethora of small parties, and has undoubtedly been one of the two main stabilising factors in the Fifth Republic set up by de Gaulle in 1958 (the other being the powerful executive presidency).

In future the French will cast just the one vote for the party list of their choice in whichever of the 96 Departments they inhabit. For the candidate this means their chance of election depends on the picking-order in the list which will be decided by party leaders, not the voters. By effectively turning the Departments into multi-member constituencies rather than treating the entire country as a single constituency ("pure" PR), the new system will still favour the larger parties at the expense of the smaller, including the National Front and probably the Communists. At the same time it will prevent any single party from getting an absolute majority, as the Socialists' freckles did in 1981 but long since abandoned hope of repeating.

The French have had PR before, but not under the Fifth Republic, which is special in having a presidency more dominant than any democratic premier-ship. The change marks a significant shift in the balance of power towards the presidency because future parliamentary majorities will be looser and weaker coalitions. Briefly and crudely put, the people will be somewhat more fairly represented in an assembly with even less capacity to restrain a president directly elected for a fixed term with the power of dissolution. All this is to enable the socialists to hang on to power provided only (and this is a large if) they remain the largest party next year so they can choose coalition partners. If the two props of strong presidency and stable parliament could not avert a 1983, the implications for 1988 or some other not too distant year for a Fifth Republic balanced on the single prop of an overweening presidency are clearly fraught with high risk.

Going to pot?

The inventors of snooker must have had television in mind, just as the Morte d'Arthur was intended for radio and B. M.

Forster wrote for the wide screen and Dolby Sound. Without television, snooker would probably have languished and died with its elderly exponents in the decrepit billiards halls of Northern England, or given way to the more primitive and meretricious pool. Snooker itself was considered a less refined and skillful use of the table than billiards until Walter Lindrum and Joe Davis (no relation) perfected the nursery cannon which, offering effortless and limitless breaks, took away the glamour as well as the point of the game. (Tom Reece left unfinished a break of 499,135, but it didn't count anyway because the judges were not always there to watch.) In its revived form, snooker is a game of high skill, good manners, and big money played by gentlemen with waistcoats and by Alex Higgins without. The referee habitually wears white gloves and the solemnity of a butler. But in spite of its enormous audience and the household familiarity of the players' names, snooker still ranks merely as a game rather than a sport. That can be the only reason why the organisers have decided to bring in drug tests. Now that all competitors, starting in Sheffield tomorrow, have to be checked for anabolic steroids, snooker is at last raised to parity with the dachshund.

Two drugs are still allowed. Without tobacco the tournament would be short of a wealthy sponsor and Mr Higgins might not have made the championship. Without alcohol the game would be torn from its natural habitat and Bill Werbeniuk would go in off the pink every time. It is the unacceptable drugs the organisers say they are after, but the question must be asked what conceivable advantage they are deemed to confer. How is potting ability affected by availability of pot? Could a quaking heroin addict manoeuvre the long rest, let alone score with its aid? Would not LSD alter the colours of the balls? Maybe there are new and more subtle drugs being pushed in the saloons which enhance visual perception and leave no other trace, but if so we have yet to hear of them and they ought, in any case, to be issued free to airline pilots and taxi drivers. In trying to uplift their game to Olympic status the organisers are in fact doing it a serious disservice. The suggestion, however remote, that the wonderful positioning we expect from Steve Davis, Terry Griffiths, Willy Thorne, Tony Knowles and the rest is not a skill forged in the Crucible but an illusion chemically induced in one at which a nation of spectators will instinctively balk.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A broad muddle in the middle holds no threat for Thatcher

Sir, — What was fascinating about Eric Hobsbawm's argument (Agenda, April 8) in favour of a broad alliance against Thatcher was the great gaping hole in the middle. Around which policies and strategies is Hobsbawm's alliance to be built? Is the alliance to be based simply on hostility to Thatcher? If so, the alliance might soon fall apart under the weight of unanswered questions. Where would the broad alliance stand on major current issues? Would it urge a "freeze" on nuclear weapons, or seek their immediate abandonment? Would it stress that local councils should pass on Government-inspired cuts in services, or would it actively support those councillors engaged in outright resistance to cuts? Would the alliance help to organise industrial action to oppose all job losses, or would it merely protest at rising unemployment and await a change of Government? In place of a constructive agenda, Mr Hobsbawm chooses to emphasise two themes. First, a rebuttal of the Socialist Left, conducted in that hoary old debating technique of ascribing a few misleading assumptions to your opponents and then knocking them down. Secondly, there is a heavy



—and breathe a deep sigh of relief! But, of course, there are different kinds of socialism, as George Orwell among others testified in the 1930s whilst witnessing one of Mr Hobsbawm's "popular fronts" demoralising the social revolution of the Spanish workers and peasants. There is a socialism that springs from the real, everyday struggles of working men and women and which suggests both the necessity of solidarity and the democratic, planned use of society's resources for the benefit of all. Indeed, solidarity rather than "alliance" is the key word to use, and solidarity between whom and for what objectives are the central questions to ask? Solidarity played to defend and create

It is to the developing sea-change that Mr Hobsbawm should address himself. If he wants credibility then he and those who echo his views will have to demonstrate by actions and clear statements of policies just where they now stand. — Yours faithfully, (Cliff) Nigel Todd, 2 Burnside, Spital Tongues, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Sir, — In his Agenda article, Prof Hobsbawm seems to seriously underestimate the constraints under which Her Majesty's Government must operate. The Prime Minister's radical policies are not some caprice but a necessity, as she has repeatedly stated "there is no alternative" other than allowing Britain to slide into state socialism and eventual communist tyranny. This was clear to the mass of the Conservative Party and the largest portion of the electorate. It should be equally clear to those of us who were rather looking forward to Communist tyranny and the end of civilisation as we have known it. Consider what she took over, an economy where the rate of industrial profit had fallen from around 15 per cent in the fifties to around 5 per cent by the late Seventies, an economy where eco-

nomic activity could only be sustained by ever growing unproductive state expenditure which drained the capital market and debauched the currency where every serious attempt to restrict the economy in the last 10 years had foundered upon the opposition of the trades union movement. By the late Seventies there were only two courses open to Britain: replacement of the failing mixed economy with a centrally planned one, or a determined struggle to reestablish a free market system.

It is a measure of Thatcher's greatness that she saw this when Labour leaders were still the exception of the rule. It is a measure of her success in breaking the unions and restoring industrial profitability that she has created room for the revival of the politics of conciliation under Kinnoch. A modest enough revival indeed, Labour now talks of reducing unemployment from four million to maybe three million over three years, but at least enough to let the Professor and his communist party off the hook of having to fight for the other alternative. — Yours faithfully, David Locksott, Glasgow.

How electoral reform would moderate the monetarists

Sir, — PR might change cold-hearted Tories (Letters, April 9). Historical experience shows that the majority of Englishmen are by temperament moderate conservatives, unless some national outrage temporarily stirs them up to radical thoughts. Therefore a "fair" system of voting is inherently likely to produce a succession of moderate governments. It is in general easier to give cohesion to a party of conservatives, who wish the present system to continue, than to a party of radical reformers who are impatient for change. Proportional representation can only come if one of the major parties is driven to the conclusion that this change is in its own interests. The Conservatives are more likely to arrive at this point than Labour. Suppose the present administration were to survive a third General Election, but with a painfully reduced majority, and with the Alliance making a fair showing. It would then be apparent that the obstinate survival of the Alliance was the factor which had prevented the misfortune of a Labour government with an independent majority. Mrs Thatcher would then presumably on some convenient occasion go to the Lords and a moderate Conservative administration be formed. The Conservatives might then count it prudent to bring in electoral reform, part of the deal being a reduction of the over-representation of anti-Conservative Scotland, and a stronger con-

When one sex is not to blame

Sir, — Ms Apple's comment (Letters, April 8) is the kind of anti-male statement which is not going to get us anywhere. Cervical cancer is "more caused by men than isemophilia or colour-blindness" are caused by women: men may or may not be the unwitting carriers of the disease. As a feminist myself I strongly object to such muddled-headed thought parading as feminism. If the movement is to succeed in its aim it must recognise that to blame one sex for all human ills is antagonistic and wrong. If the cause is to serve all women (and ultimately all people) it must recognise that many women want to be feminists and to admit that they love and respect the men around them. — Catherine Feeny, Oxford.

Sir, — Both Olenka "Frankel" (April 9) and Dr "Roger James" (April 2) are right to say that barrier contraceptives protect against cervical cancer. But the excess cervical cancer risk in pill users is not need merely by the absence of a barrier. Women who use the pill for three or more years have a higher risk than NUT users, even after allowing for other differences between the two groups. The longer women use the pill, the higher the risk becomes, and this "dose response relationship" is further evidence against the pill. Since vaccine also get cer-

Rent rise

Sir, — Tim Daniel (Letters, April 3) knows perfectly well that the figures I quoted for council rent increases referred to working class (as did your editorial). To point to a specific council's higher than average rent increase and claim "so much for Ashton's assertion that rents are not going up" (as did your editorial) is as dishonest as referring to a lower than average increase and arguing that I have understated the case. As to whether or not I feel there is or should be a widely held belief that owner occupiers are subsidised, I should have thought that since over half the households in the country are home owners who are receiving, or have received, mortgage interest relief, any comment from me would be superfluous. However, the figure of £2.5 billion in capital gains exemption is a highly speculative one which requires justification. — Yours faithfully, Paul Ashton, The University of Liverpool, Liverpool.

Hymn to life

Sir, Christopher Driver, writing of contemporary Christian song (Guardian, April 6) refers to "the late Sydney Carter". From the context I think he must mean me: so may I assure him that I am still living, at Herne Hill? — Yours faithfully, Sydney Carter, London SE24.

Miscellany at large on our malaise in Malaysia

Sir, — The sight of Mrs Thatcher reassuring Malaysia and Singapore that her "family" of workers is now emerging as a nation, trying to encourage investment by the multinationals and entrepreneurs of mature industrial nations — "Come and invest, your factories are safe with us: our workforce is docile, low-paid, and un-motivated". — Eric Van Tassel, Cambridge.

Sir, — My Easter break was enlivened by the sight of Margaret (I'm a parent too) Thatcher suitably speaking down to the dignitaries of Kuala Lumpur. Throwing light on her style of leadership, she patiently explained that responsible parents do not simply give their children everything they ask for. A revealing little allegory. However, one question devils me. Does the whole British public see the whole, British public as infantile, or merely the Cabinet? — Yours faithfully, Tom Kilcourse, 20 Towhead Road, Dore, Sheffield.

A COUNTRY DIARY

NORFOLK: On the last day of March bird song at dawn reached a sudden peak of exultation in the woods near a small lake, as snowdrops reached their ultimate perfection, fully expanded and fragrant with nectar. I saw house sparrows with heads full of silky material from plumes of pampas grass in lieu of feathers for nest-lining and watched a long-tailed tit collecting spiders' webs from under the eaves of a garage, an essential item needed for nest-building. Some sand martins had returned to mud-pits in the country a week earlier, but chaffinches, usually the earliest of our summer migrants to announce their arrival, were not yet in evidence. The first few days of April, with continuing warmth, have brought forth dandelions along the verges, while countless seedlings have sprouted from bare soil everywhere, refreshed by some generous showers. It is likely that the germination of many seeds so speedily and in such plenty owes something to their effective verminisation by the winter's frost. While many trees show little sign of greening as yet, a warm April could well bring them forward quite quickly, but at least their slow awakening is likely to improve their chances of escaping damage to leaf and flower buds by frost.

The slow greening of Europe

Sir, — Martin Stott (Letters, March 28) raises some interesting points about the relationship between the Ecology Party and the "wider green movement" in the UK. Fertile ground for debate and no doubt the lists will be joined enthusiastically from all sides. The discussion ground already rings to the sound of those heaving themselves aboard the green bandwagon. However, for such discussions to be fruitful factual accuracy should be the watchword from all participants. Unfortunately, Mr Stott falls at this first hurdle by claiming that "... it is quite true that the Ecology Party has got nowhere near the 5 per cent hurdle in elections..." Not true. In the last European Election our highest vote was 4.7 per cent, in last May's local elections the three highest percentage votes were 37.6 per cent, 36.9 per cent and 35.5 per cent and out of 106 results 50 were over 5 per cent. Even in the last General Election (where the lack of PR is felt most acutely) our best vote was 2.9 per cent. — Tony Jones, Ecology Party, London SW 9.

Why the mud doesn't stick

Sir, — Scene: Peace Corner, USAF Moleworth, Easter Monday. We had just tramped around the base, part of a line that was still setting out when its head reached the end, and like everyone else we were plastered to the knees with the thick, sticky mud stirred up by the thousands of feet that had gone before us. We were queuing for a well-earned cup of tea when Lady Olga Maitland appeared to cheer up her supporters (all six of them) by telling them that the Moleworth CND's turnout was a bare 5,000 — she had seen for herself. Her boots, like the rest of course we all know she can walk on water, but that Moleworth mud? Evidently their special counting system is not the CPS's only discovery! — Anthony Gilbert, West Slaitwaite.

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FUTURES

MICRO GUARDIAN-PLUS THE WORLD OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

THE brightest stars in the southern hemisphere are visible long before the sun has set. On a clear evening from the top of a mountain in Siding Spring, New South Wales, you can see 50 miles away and two million light years vertically. In this far outpost of civilisation at the edge of Warrumbungle National Park there is no haze or light pollution and conditions are perfect for observing celestial phenomena.

Permanently fixed to the top of the mountain is a giant telescope camera, one of a pair which together can track across the entire reach of the northern and southern skies. The identical twin is 11,500 miles and 180 degrees of arc away across the globe at the Royal Greenwich Observatory. At Siding Spring the camera is operated by Robert McNaught and Robert McNaught (a coincidence of names so improbable that it almost outweighs the chance of a close encounter).

The two men are not stargazers but satellite trackers stationed there for twelve months from Aston University's Earth Satellite Research Unit. They form part of an international community of observers who collectively monitor the orbits of artificial satellites circling the earth, not just broadcasting satellites but any old bits of junk rocket casings, broken off solar panels, fuel pods and the more useless and inanimate the better since junk is less prone to releases of compressed gas or unburnt fuel. This means that the principal distortion in what would otherwise be perfectly elliptical orbits are due to variations in the Earth's gravity field.

The Earth's gravity which is being studied. Even though the observers are turning their eyes upwards to space they are really concerned with earthbound forces beneath their feet. Every jump, every step, every movement means that it is passing over a bump in the gravity field, the result of a departure in the Earth's shape from a notional perfect sphere.

Watching satellites through many revolutions, maps of the Earth's sea-level surface can be built up for use in oceanography and geophysics. Knowledge of the Earth's surface dimensions is fundamental to understanding the driving forces of the ocean and the structure of the Earth's mantle.

The use of satellite data to advance this knowledge represents the latest chapter in

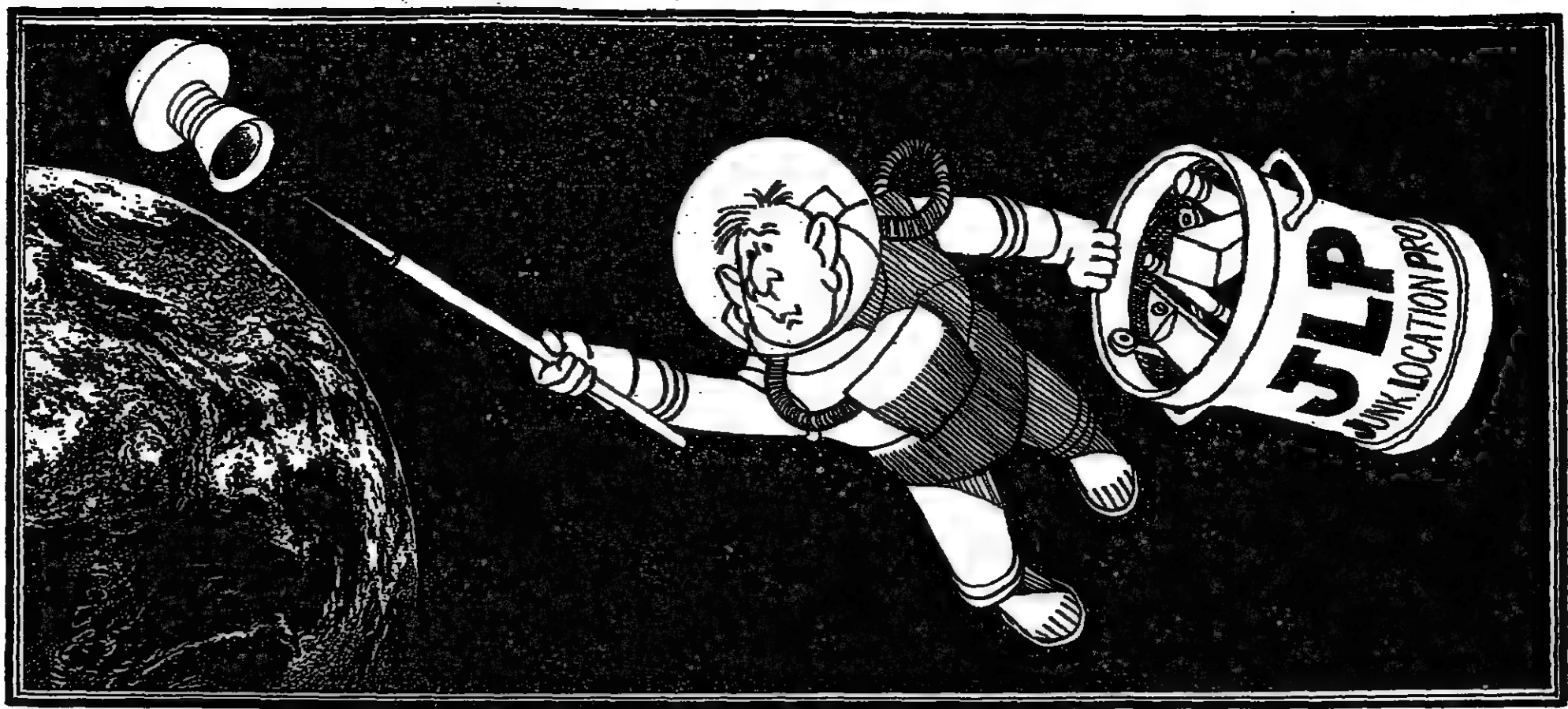


Illustration by Peter Clarke

If you maintain a close watch on orbiting satellites you can learn a great deal about the earth's gravity. You could also learn how to protect a space station, writes Nick Rufford

Keeping an eye on the celestial junkyard

the long standing history of geodesy, the science of determining the shape and size of the Earth.

In the third century BC, Eratosthenes (the father of geodesy and a great friend of Archimedes) made the first significant attempt to measure the Earth's circumference. His calculation was based on the angular difference in the position of the sun's highest point at two different cities. He worked out the distance between the two cities from the length of the journey on camel. Converting degrees of arc into units of distance he got a result which was accurate to within 1,000 kilometres (2.5%).

The quest to describe the Earth's form continued

through to the 17th century but got temporarily stuck on an obsession with the flattening coefficient—a measure of the extent to which the Earth is higher round the equator than round the poles. Newton argued with his usual compelling logic that there must be a bulge at the equator exerting sufficient extra gravity to compensate for the centrifugal effect of the Earth's rotation.

However, a French father and son team, the Cassinis, produced complicated empirical evidence to challenge Newton's estimate of the flattening coefficient of 290⁻⁷. Their measurements of arc length established that the Earth was not flattened at all but clearly egg shaped with a negative coefficient.

Theory versus empiricism spilled over into nationalistic pride. The French Academy of Sciences dispatched expeditions to endure frost-bite in Lapland and mosquitoes in Peru to bring back the true answer and silence Newton. But even the survivors could not agree. The Lapland team estimated the coefficient as 178⁻⁷. The Peruvian party, nervous about committing themselves but determined to come up with something original, put it between 178⁻⁷ and 290⁻⁷.

In fact Newton's theory was right, although he didn't take the Earth's density into account and erred on the high side as a result (the correct value is 298.25⁻⁷). But this is far from the complete answer. The flattening at the poles

represents only one of a series of harmonics which describe the Earth's shape. The first harmonic is a perfect sphere, the second an ellipsoid, the third a triangular or pear shape and so on, progressing by the number of "corners" which a shape possesses.

By superimposing harmonics one on another in different degrees, any shape of Earth can be simulated.

Twenty years ago values for the first nine harmonics were firmly established. With the aid of satellite data and computer analysis, new refinements became possible. Today, more than 2000 years after Eratosthenes, the Goddard Earth Model 10C (GEM 10C for short) features 180

harmonics in both polar and equatorial planes.

There are of course, other less enchanting reasons for monitoring earth satellites. One is quite simply to keep an eye on everything moving in space and carefully log any new arrivals and make sure quickly that they are not ICBM's. Another is to assess the growing danger that a manned spacecraft could be struck by a piece of orbiting debris.

The worst consequences of such an incident, where debris punctured the pressurised crew module, could be loss of spacecraft and crew. There is particular concern for the United States \$8 billion space station planned for the 1990s. A specialist in orbital debris at the Johnson

Space Centre estimates that there is a good chance that the station will get hit by debris of 10 centimetres in size or larger at some point during its lifetime. Over a period of 100 years at least one such strike is a statistical certainty.

A precautionary measure currently being advocated is the launch of a debris monitoring satellite to act as an early warning station. The satellite would supplement terrestrial observations and warn when debris was accumulating to a dangerous level in high orbits before it filtered down to the level of the space station. This solution assumes of course that the satellite could avoid problems with debris itself. An

early balloon satellite, Echo 2, collided with its own launch canister after only one orbit.

As satellite tracking systems become more sophisticated they tend to reveal more and more space junk. A total of 40,000 orbiting objects of diameter one centimetre or greater has been discovered with the latest US Airforce CRODSS telescope system. Most of the debris is caused by rocket booster stages self-destructing but a significant proportion is the result of the activities of killer satellites which manoeuvre alongside their targets and turn them into a much larger number of smaller satellites.

Debris may be a nuisance and some operational satellites may be downright destructive but all of them provide useful information points in space. Later this year a new US-European joint research programme, the Wegener Project, will use satellites with stable orbits as markers to study Continental drift.

Changes in the relative positions of the satellites caused by movements in the earth's crust will be measured by mobile laser rangefinders stationed in tectonically active regions of the Eastern Mediterranean and South America. The lasers are sufficiently accurate (within 10 centimetres over the typical height of a satellite orbit) to detect rates of Continental drift of only a few centimetres per annum. The project will provide useful information on earthquakes, assuming that it is not overtaken by a vogue for rationalisation.

Research based on satellite data depends on international co-operation and a database maintained by observers from different parts of the globe. No centralised system can replace the network of small satellite monitoring groups and amateur observers who might keep track of the celestial merry-go-round of junk twinkling among the stars.

Satellite predictions supplied by Aston University's Earth Satellite Research Unit are given daily on the back page of the Guardian.

For a more detailed history of the quest for the flattening coefficient see *Observing Earth Satellites* by Desmond King-Hele (Macmillan).

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"PETE MARSH", the iron-age man pickled in a peat-bog near Wiltshire, Cheshire, briefly hit the headlines when he was fished out last summer. Under his official name, Lindow Man, he has since been busy at the British Museum as an archaeological and scientific exhibit, his first chance to examine the flesh, as well as the bones, of a prehistoric Briton.

More than 700 bog-bodies have been found in north-west Europe, especially in the 19th century when peat-cutting was at its height. Most rotted or were reburied, though one found at Kiel in 1891 was preserved by smoking it like a kipper. The first record from Britain was a woman, perhaps a Viking, found in 1871 in County Down.

Pete Marsh is the only British find in modern times, and the first to receive scientific examination.

The priority, of course, is how to preserve him. Expert study of the peat sediments by Professor Frank Oldfield of Liverpool University has reconstructed the prehistoric environment. Lindow Man was tipped, around 500 BC, in an open pool within the peat-bog. Soon afterwards, a sphagnum moss "lawn" grew over him, embedding him in wet, acid and air-free conditions that prevented him decaying.

But as soon as he was disturbed by mechanical peat-cutting—about six months before he was discovered—those conditions were upset. Now he is kept at 4°C, the standard temperature for mortuaries, higher temperatures encourage decay, and lower temperatures might damage him by freezing.

Lindow man is not the first human relic from Wiltshire. A woman's bog body turned up in May, 1983, so well preserved it included her left eye-ball and a yellowish-green substance that was the remains of the peat-mill workers, when they hosed down what they had



Lindow Man: wholefood diet?

His final meal was eaten in 550BC. Science has been able to identify what it was, reports Christopher Chippindale

Pete Marsh's last supper

thought was a burst football, had a bizarre outcome.

At the time, Macclesfield police were interviewing a man suspected of murdering his wife 20 years ago. Confronted with the head, the suspect confessed to the killing, and he was tried and convicted on the basis of the confession.

Remained and a radiocarbon determination gave a date for the head of 200 AD.

The bog-bodies discovered in Denmark during the 1980s were preserved by the best methods then available. Only the head of Tollund Man, found in 1950, was kept, preserved in alcohol, tinned and paraffin was Grubbe Man, 1852, a tanned whole, using a ton of oak bark.

For Lindow Man British Museum conservator Sheriff Omar will use freezing-drying out the water directly from a frozen state. It is the standard technique for ancient leather shoes, but a body is a more complex object—its bones, muscle,

fatty tissue and skin all behave rather differently. Omar is now experimenting with different chemical treatments, and hopes to find a way to preserve in time for Lindow Man to go on show next year.

The medics have been giving him the most modern treatment too. The minerals in the bone, the solid material that shows up on X-rays, were wasted by bog acids, so Lindow Man was also scanned with CT (computerised tomography) and NMR (nuclear magnetic resonance), before James Bourke, surgeon at Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham, explored inside. The stomach and adjoining parts were intact, but otherwise the body was virtually empty—the capricious effect of its pickling in the peat.

Dr Ian West, forensic scientist at Guy's Hospital, has reconstructed the grimy way Lindow Man died. First he was fished with two blows with an axe, so hard they drove

pieces of skull deep into the cranium.

He was then garrotted: a sinew was knotted round his neck, a stick inserted to twist the sinew and the neck broken. Finally, his throat was slit by the larynx, perhaps cutting his jugular.

Danish bog-bodies had suffered the same way. Tollund Man was throttled with a rope noose. Grubbe Man had his throat cut almost from ear to ear.

Full scientific examination of Lindow Man will take some years: the vegetable contents of his stomach alone will provide work for a PhD. A first examination by Gordon Hillman, archaeobotanist at the London Institute of Archaeology, has already begun to tell that story.

The gut contents are a mixture of plant and animal foods. Hillman expected, from the Danish examples, a "famine food"—the characteristic mixture of tiny waste grains and weed seeds that is left over when grain is

cleaned and not usually eaten.

But Lindow Man had eaten better, a mixture of spelt-wheat and barley with just a few weed seeds. What he and dock Charred heather leaves probably came from the fire over which this last meal was cooked.

The mixture, with its bran, fine chaff and husks, pretty well corresponds to modern wholefoods. But was it eaten as wholegrains or ground? Here, simple experiment of student volunteers has been helpful: you feed them on whole or on ground grain, and examine the difference in what comes out. The size of the bran fragments, especially, shows that Lindow Man ate ground grain, probably milled with a saddle quern and not much coarser than modern wholemeal bread.

The next question is how was it cooked—as a bread or a porridge. Though different in the kitchen and on the table, they are physically much the same when they reach the stomach. But Hillman has spotted minute charred fragments no more than a tenth of a millimetre long—with tiny fragments of chaff embedded in them. These would come from a burnt crust, and suggests to him bread.

For a final answer Hillman is sending samples to Dr Keith Sales, of Queen Mary College chemistry department, who has developed a new method, using ESR (electron spin resonance) to deduce paleotemperatures—that is, the highest temperature to which a material has been exposed in its past history; particular temperatures leave distinct traces in the electron structure.

From King Zoser's pyramid in Egypt had once been heated to nearly 100°C, which probably corresponds to the heat of a burning floor in full African sun. For older charred grain from Syria the value was a fire temperature of 300°C. A figure around 100°C for Lindow Man would mean porridge, towards 250°C or higher would mean bread.

It is quite extraordinary that a Government seemingly obsessed with its rigid monetary policies should fail to apply these same policies to energy conservation.

The message ringing out from Tories on high, is that investment should follow market pressures and therefore go where the returns are best.

The same message is ringing out from the White House and you might therefore expect some grand similarities between the US and British patterns of utility investment. Indeed there are grand differences, and they arise largely from the fact that while, in the US, the monetarist principle is being applied by the utilities themselves, in Britain the principle is not being applied at all.

This inconsistency was recently highlighted in evidence to the Select Committee on Energy given by Andrew Warren, director of the Association for the Conservation of Energy.

Although the topic under investigation was the United Kingdom Gas Depletion Policy (which to anyone sensitive to resource issues seems to be standing the real problems on their heads), the evidence relates to general differences in the way energy finance in the US and Britain.

The Department of Energy, in its 1983 paper prepared for the Stawell inquiry, but making a seemingly clear position on investment in energy generally, says that conservation measures cannot have a significant effect on the rate of investment in gas supply—but nevertheless relegates conservation to a category quite distinct from that assigned to the investment needed to meet rising demand and replacement of old plant.

This contrasts dramatically with the views of the major utilities in the United States. Pacific Gas and Electric, for example, examining the

ENERGETICS by Anthony Tucker

Power politics

potential return on their investment in customer's conservation, say flatly that "it is simply more cost effective to continue serving customers with existing energy supplies."

The investment implication of this is made clear by the US Northwest Conservation and Power plan which says that, in its analysis, utilities are treated as a resource, as an additional supply of energy rather than a reduction in demand forecast. In its simplest form this means that a kilowatt hour saved is the equivalent of a kilowatt hour of new supply, and a kilowatt saved from the demand of the supply area is the equivalent of a kilowatt added to the area's generating capacity.

The Tennessee Valley Authority, the largest publicly-owned electricity supply authority in the US, makes the position abundantly clear in its latest power supply forecasts. The energy conservation programmes, financed by the authority, are "treated as a power supply option since the impacts of conservation programmes can be controlled by the authority in planning the power supply system."

The TVA actually goes further than this, for, from the nature of its loan and other energy saving programmes, it expresses the conviction that investment in energy conservation has a better payback record, shorter lead times, greater flexibility and greater certainty than some other alternative investments.

TVA estimates that its con-

trolled conservation schemes, already saving about 400 Megawatts of peak demand, will reach the planned target of 3,000 to 4,000 MW by the end of the century. "Conservation programmes will add 3,000 to 4,000 MW to our capacity," says the authority. Quite apart from providing the framework and encouragement of the new industry needed for a sustained energy conservation programme, TVA will meet its demand target at a cost that is predictable and lower than through conventional and now outdated financial techniques.

Even more progressive is the Federally-owned Bonneville Power Administration, which has a Power Planning Council, after investigating the soundness and flexibility of investment options relating to demand forecasts, said flatly that the "most cost-effective resource is conservation."

But Bonneville has approached its application of conservation measures in a way that is socially sensitive. In general consumers pay 15 per cent of the overall cost of improvements, a financial arrangement that commercial organisations have been eager to accept. Even so Bonneville's conservation situation is intolerable. How is it that this Government keeps failing to get its own message?

Association for the Conservation of Energy: Evidence to the Select Committee on Energy, 1985

Pluto comes in from the back of beyond

PLUTO, the remote and mysterious planet named after the god of the underworld, is giving up the darkness and moves out of the shadows towards the Sun. In the past few weeks Pluto has begun a series of eclipses with its moon which promises to answer some of the outstanding questions about this controversial world. In view of recent findings, some astronomers doubt whether Pluto deserves to be regarded as a true planet at all.

Pluto was discovered in 1930, 12 years too late to be included in the list of planets included in the 1923 Lowell Observatory photographs taken by Clyde Tombaugh at Lowell Observatory, Arizona, as part of a deliberate search.

Tombaugh, a 24-year-old farmer's son, was a keen amateur astronomer who had been hired by the observatory for the planet search because

they could not afford a qualified astronomer. His discovery climaxed 10 months of searching and ensured him a place in history.

But Pluto was a disappointment. Faint and small, it was not the imposing body like Neptune that astronomers had expected. What's more, its 250-year orbit was unlike that of any other planet, actually crossing inside the path of Neptune at times, as it did in January 1979. Pluto remains closer to the Sun than Neptune until March 1998. Never has it been better placed for observation.

How did Pluto come to have such a strange orbit? Professor Raymond Lyttelton of Cambridge University proposed in 1936 that Pluto might actually be a former satellite of Neptune that was ejected after a near-collision with Neptune's largest moon, Triton. The encounter also reversed the motion of Triton, which now circles Neptune in

a retrograde (east-to-west) direction.

Lyttelton's theory was widely accepted until a few years ago, when our ideas about Pluto underwent a radical change.

First, new observations in 1978 revised the estimated diameter of Pluto downwards to about 1,500 miles, the size previously quoted, smaller than our own Moon. Pluto is thus the smallest planet in the solar system.

Since it is so small, and its orbit so unusual, some astronomers have suggested that Pluto should be reclassified as an asteroid. At present, though, it is still regarded as a bona fide planet.

Then in 1978 Dr James Christy at the U.S. Naval Observatory in Washington discovered that Pluto has a moon of its own. This moon showed up as a slight elongation of the image of Pluto on photographs taken to measure the planet's position.

Christy named the moon Charon, after the mythological boatman who ferried souls across the river Styx into Pluto's domain. Charon is so close to Pluto, about 10,000 miles from its surface, that it had been missed by all previous investigators.

Charon is remarkable in many ways. It orbits Pluto every 6.4 days, the same time that the planet takes to spin on its axis, so that it must hang fixed over one point on Pluto's equator like a geostationary satellite. And with a diameter 40 per cent that of Pluto, Charon is larger in proportion to its parent planet than any other moon in the solar system.

From details of Charon's orbit around Pluto, astronomers made the first accurate calculations of Pluto's mass. It turned out to be disappointingly small. Pluto is 450 times less massive than the Earth, or 13 per cent the mass of our Moon. The densities

calculated for Pluto and Charon are similar to that of water, showing them to be more than large snowballs.

Lyttelton's theory of the origin of Pluto had to be rejected, because Pluto's true mass is too small to reverse the orbital motion of Triton, which is actually larger and heavier than Pluto. Last year, William McKinnon of Washington University, proposed an alternative theory, in which Pluto and Triton both originated as independent bodies orbiting the Sun. Triton was captured after a close approach to Neptune, but Pluto remained free. Had Triton not been captured, our solar system would have ten planets.

Shortly after the discovery of Pluto's moon, astronomers realised that the plane of its orbit would soon swing into line with the Earth, giving rise to a series of eclipses between Pluto and Charon.

On February 17 this year, the first eclipse was detected, at McDonald Observatory in Texas.

Currently only the edges of Pluto and Charon are being eclipsed, but the eclipses will gradually become total. The series of eclipses is expected to last five years.

Astronomers at McDonald Observatory, Palomar Observatory and Hawaii are monitoring the changes in light during the eclipse to find the exact sizes and shapes of Pluto and Charon. The two bodies may turn out to be irregularly shaped, like many asteroids.

The astronomers also hope to produce a map of Pluto showing bright and dark patches caused by methane frost on its surface.

No space probes are planned to Pluto for the foreseeable future, so this is the best opportunity to study this enigmatic world until it returns to the same part of its orbit 250 years from now.

Ian Ridpath on the revelations of a minor planet

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UNIX YES OR NO?

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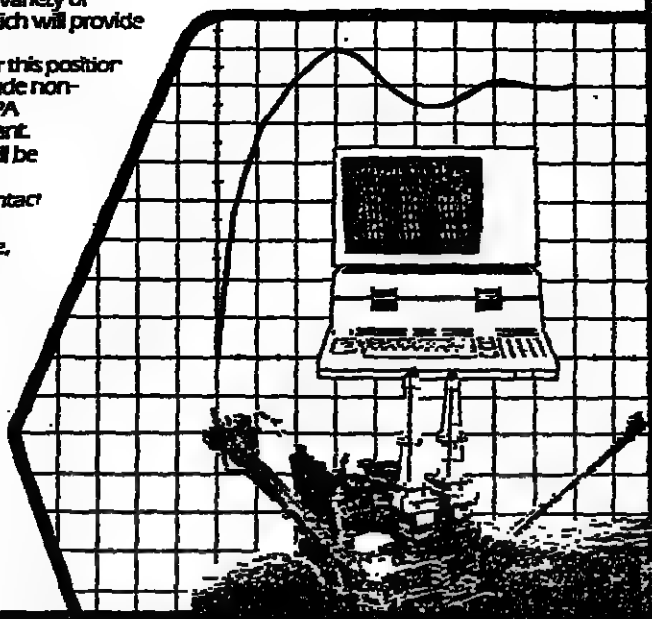
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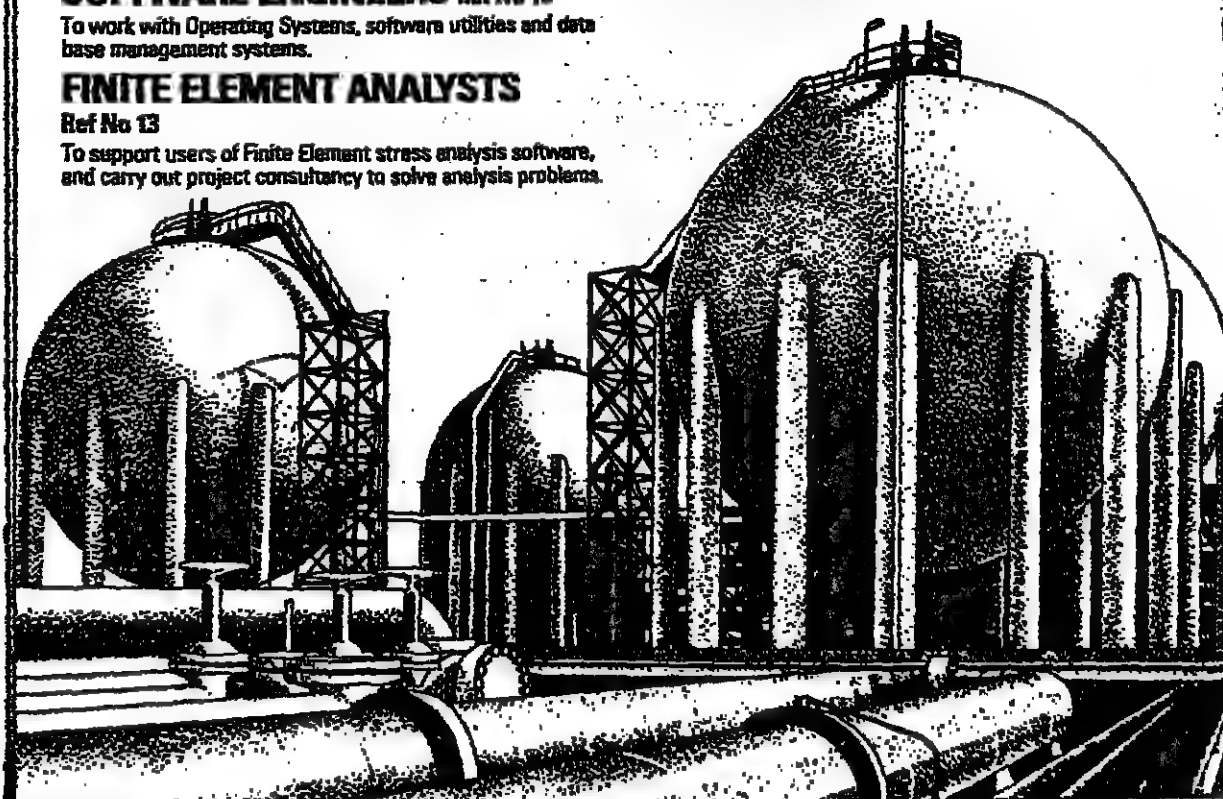
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FUTURES MICRO GUARDIAN

Thursday April 11 1985 17

Jack Schofield samples the software which could break down language barriers and make syntax and grammar more fun

Parlez-vous Atari? Sprechen sie Sinclair?

IMAGINE a taxi, the back seat covered with spaghetti, imagine a boxer sitting on a hedgehog with a microphone as your French mistress or Italian teacher, cassette tapes can supplement or replace existing aids such as Teach Yourself books, Linguaphone courses and evening classes.

The software ranges from simple vocabulary exercises for children to full O-level courses. Most micros are catered for, from the humble Oric and Spectrum to the Acorn BBC B, Apple and Apple II.

One of the first companies in the field, way back in 1980, was Wide Software, whose Apfelddeutsch grew out of a Linguaphone-type course. The programme involves listening to six cassette tapes and working through a comprehensive text book. The novelty comes through the addition of nine floppy discs to run on an Apple II micro. These provide word tests and exercises which enable the computer to assess your performance. It is this interactive element that takes some computer-aided language learning beyond records, tapes and books.

Wide's course is relatively expensive at £120, and goes up to approximately O-level standard in German. Most software is simpler and cheaper, aiming to expand your vocabulary and teach simple grammar rather than make you fluent or even able to pass examinations.

But in general, micros have a problem, being both deaf and dumb. There has to be a separate audio element to the software to provide a guide to pronunciation. This tends to make using the computer complex and confusing.

One micro with a technical advantage is the Atari, because the standard Atari 410 cassette deck is actually a stereo tape recorder, with computer data on one track and voice on the other. This means it can print a sentence in the screen then, through

the TV speaker, play back a recording of a voice saying it. One tap thus covers both aspects and synchronises them very conveniently.

To capitalise on this technique Atari launched a range of four conversational language courses in 1980. Each package comprises five cassette tapes and a manual. The series includes Conversational French, German, Spanish and Italian. The programs were written by Longman and Thorn-EMI in the U.K., but aimed at the American market. Though the programming is patchy and the graphics sometimes pathetic, these remain good beginner's courses, and reasonable value at £20.

More recently, Softee Systems has launched a See Hear French listening comprehension tape for the Sinclair Spectrum. The tape is aimed at O-level students, and comes complete with a Y adaptor to split the stereo signal between the Spectrum and your headphones. In spite of a certain amount of "cross-talk", it does enable the same tape to be used for voice and data. However, it means you have to own a stereo tape recorder, and technologically the system is primitive compared with the Atari. But the See Hear French tape costs only £25.00. German, Italian and Spanish tapes are planned.

If you want to increase your vocabulary there are numerous programs to help. Wide Software has two ranges, the Vocab series (French, German and Spanish) and the Storyboard series (French, German, Italian, Spanish, Dutch, Irish and Welsh). All are available for the BBC micro at £25 each. The Vocab tapes include simple games such as Anagram and Word Order. The Storyboard programs use context development to help build up your vocabulary.

Kosmos has three titles for the BBC micro, Commodore 64 and Spectrum at £29 per



The French Mistress by Kosmos

tape: The French Mistress, The Spanish Tutor and The German Master. There are Level A (vocabulary) and B (grammar) cassettes for each. The programs seem thorough, but they are complicated and not much fun to use.

A more entertaining method of vocabulary building is Chalkoff's Eiffel Tower, for the Commodore 64 and Spectrum. You are given a clue in English, guess the word in French, and if you are

correct a piece is added to a picture of the Eiffel Tower until the edifice is complete. In Chalkoff's Das Schloss you build a castle by guessing German words, while Made in Spain covers Spanish. The graphics are amusing, though

perhaps the novelty wears off after a while.

The most entertaining language tutors of all avoid graphics altogether. These are the Linkword programs, originating with Dr Gruneberg of University College, Swansea. Cassettes are available for most small micros including Atari (English Software), the BBC micro (Acornsoft), Commodore 64 and Vic 20 (Androgene), Oric (Rassoft), Spectrum (Silver Soft), Apple and ACT Aprioric versions are also scheduled. The languages covered include French, Spanish, German and Italian. Each package includes two tapes: one is the computer program, and the other an audio tape to teach pronunciation.

Dr Gruneberg is a psychologist rather than a linguist. His courses are based on the idea of forming striking images as a means of remembering words. The Spanish for cow is vaca, so imagine a cow with a vacuum cleaner, and so on. Some of it could be straight out of Monty Python.

If a word is the same in both languages then you imagine the object plus a constant national symbol. For Italian this is spaghetti, so a taxi full of spaghetti reminds you that the Italian for taxi is taxi. Another constant teaches you gender. In French the hedgehog is masculine, hence the word for the box is le boîtier. If it were feminine, you'd imagine it being doused with perfume.

Gruneberg has had negative responses to Linkword from some teachers and those familiar with a language. But people learning a language for the first time usually have a strong positive response. "The problem with teachers," says Gruneberg, "is that they cannot see how powerful the images are as a means of retention because they are already familiar with the meaning of foreign words and the whole thing looks ridiculous."

It may look ridiculous, but it works and it's fun — more fun, if more expensive, than learning from a book.

Of course, Linkword is not the ultimate computerised language teacher. The quest is still on to combine text and sound in ways superior to the Atari system. For example, in the Department of Modern Languages at Dundee University they have developed a microprocessor-controlled cassette recorder for the BBC Micro. From the keyboard you can not only play but also record, stop, wind, rewind and even eject a tape. A digital clock enables any part of the tape to be located to within half a second. It makes real interactive sound-based teaching possible.

The reason for working with tape is that anyone can easily record his or her own cassette, which is not the case with interactive video discs. However, laser (video) discs or CD-ROMs represent perhaps the ultimate medium for computer-aided language teaching. Laser discs which can store programs reproduce both sound (speech) and graphics (text) will be available in about 18 months. A 210 Sony or Hitachi 5.25in CD-ROM holds 500 megabytes — roughly 275,000 pages of information, or 80 million words — and any item can be found in about a second.

Imagine filling that with language teaching software. It's a lot harder than imagining a boxer sitting on a hedgehog.

ADDRESSES:
Atari, Atari House, Railway Terrace, Lough,
Chalkoff, 37 Willesden Road, Worcester WR3 7QP.
Kosmos Software, 1 Pilgrims Close, Dartmouth, Devon, PL5 8LX.
Softee Systems, 35 Windy Arbour, Kendal, Lancashire, LA9 2AT.
Wide Software, 2 Nicholas Gardens, London W5 5TF.
Linkword programs are available from micro dealers.

Keith Devlin explains how to make the multigrade

Square deals

A multigrade consists of two collections of numbers whose sum is the same and whose squares have the same sum. For example, the two groups 1, 6, 8 and 2, 4, 5 form a multigrade, because

$1 + 6 + 8 = 2 + 4 + 5$
and
 $1^2 + 6^2 + 8^2 = 2^2 + 4^2 + 5^2$

Starting with one multigrade, it is easy to create many others. You can add a fixed constant C to all the numbers and the result is still a multigrade. Or you can multiply all the numbers by a constant C. Alternatively, you can start from scratch. Take any simple equality, such as

$1 + 4 = 2 + 3$

Add any constant to each number to give a new equality. For example, if we take the constant 4 we get

$5 + 8 = 6 + 7$

Now switch ends in the second equation and add it to the first:

$1 + 4 + 6 + 7 = 2 + 3 + 5 + 8$

If you check you will find that you now have a multigrade:

$1^2 + 4^2 + 6^2 + 7^2 = 2^2 + 3^2 + 5^2 + 8^2$

Try it for yourself for any numbers you like.

What about going higher than the second order? We now call multigrades like the above "second order" ones, are there any third order ones? The answer is yes.

The equation
 $1^3 + 6^3 + 8^3 = 2^3 + 4^3 + 5^3$

is valid for n equal to any of 1, 2, and 3. Such higher order multigrades are also preserved by adding or multiplying by a constant, so once you have one you can make many more. Or you can construct them from scratch. How? I'll leave you to figure that out.

The next thing to try is to make what might be called multi-multigrades, where you have three sets (or more) of numbers. For example, the equation

$9^2 + 25^2 + 28^2 = 10^2 + 21^2 + 29^2 = 11^2 + 15^2 + 30^2$

for n equal to both 1 and 2.

How far can this kind of thing be continued? Well, that's up to you to find out. It is obviously a good problem for a micro attack. I'd be interested to find out how anyone gets on. I cannot claim to know anything of this. Most of the above information was sent to me by Donald Cross of the University of Exeter, who has written several articles on the topic.

Another problem which looks ripe for a computer solution (though it can be done without, as I am sure many of you will tell me) is to arrange the digits 0 to 9 to make the following multiplication correct:

$*****$
where the very last asterisk has to be the digit 1.

This one is, of course, somewhat similar to the one about inserting plus and minus signs into the digits 1 to 9 in order to make a correct sum to 100, such as

$123 - 45 - 67 + 89 = 100$

a problem I have mentioned before on this page. There are ten solutions besides the one quoted above. There are a variety of other problems of this nature. If readers know of any, I would be pleased to hear from them, and will include some in a future column. (But please include the answers!)

Finally, a problem for the running fraternity. At a recent race in which there must have been somewhere between 100 and 1,000 runners, I noticed that the sum of the numbers greater than mine was equal to the sum of the numbers less than mine. The numbers had, by the way, been assigned consecutively, starting from 1. What was my number?

LETTERS:

The enigma of the sliced-up pi

KEITH DEVLIN (Micro March 28) mentioned that Ramanujan "found" the approximation of pi: $355/113$ (i.e. 0.0003533) and goes on to say that it is "correct to an astonishing 15 places of decimals".

As this approximation involves 16 digits and the decimal point there is no saving relative to the decimal expansion. In fact the approximation involves 23 symbols and does not look as if, assuming it was recalled correctly, it would be easily involved in manual calculations.

The approximation 22/7 on the other hand is extremely easy to remember. It gives an approximation of pi correct to 1.6 decimal places (not two as stated by Keith Devlin) and therefore has a saving of one symbol on its decimal expansion.

Can therefore see the value of the approximation 22/7 but I find Ramanujan's approximation wanting in most respects except its aesthetic appeal.

Mike Hebbick, London N6.

Keith Devlin attributes the pi approximation of 355/113 to Ramanujan. I independently discovered this over a millennium ago. David Eugene Smith's History of Mathematics, Vol. 1, p. 430-431, knew of 22/7 as the "accurate" value of pi.

Richard C. Jones, Larrow, Middlesex.

Process of elimination
JACK SCHOFIELD fairly stated the Commodore 64's word-processing capabilities (Micro, March 28). I am a journalist, and find the Commodore's Easy Script word processing package (which



you didn't mention) excellent. The keyboard of the machine, true, takes some getting used to — unfamiliar typewriter keyboards usually do — but it too is perfectly adequate.

Despite reading about the Commodore disc drive's numerous faults, I have not had any trouble with mine since I got it. As for its "glacial" slowness, well, measured in microseconds, it may be slow compared with other models. But it does the trick.

Which is what it's all about, isn't it? — Yours sincerely, John Little, Dublin.

Calling up a problem

JOHN KEEBLE seems to have fallen into a trap set for unwary journalists — they accept on face value anecdotal reports and the selective re-ports of research.

Many research studies on VDU's are badly flawed by

selection bias and report bias. For example, surveys are conducted among workers by using directed interviews and/or directed questionnaires in order to elicit information. I quote typical question: "Are you bothered at work by any of the following..." "Have you experienced any difficulties in becoming accustomed since using a VDU?"

Such questions are based on the researcher's prior assumptions and prime the subjects to give a suggested response. A poorly designed survey may well elicit lots of complaints which indicate that a problem exists. However, the problem may not be the problem perceived by the complainants or even a hazard in the conventional sense of the term. It could be, for example, that poor industrial relations have found in the VDU a more tangible vehicle for expression of complaints about any manner of grievances.

Ignorance breeds fear. Fear is stressful. It surely behoves us all to adopt a responsible attitude towards the many change problems brought along by the introduction of VDU's. Ergonomics and job design need much more attention paid to them in relation to worker comfort and happiness.

A. E. Waring, Senior Lecturer, Office Technology Unit, Polytechnic of the South Bank, London SW4.

I READ with interest and astonishment Jon Keeble's article (Micro, March 21) about data processing. After all these years someone has discovered that using a keyboard causes pain in the neck, back, elbow and fingers!

These researchers should have looked no further than the typist. I have spent the last 15 years typing on a manual machine and on the agony after a day's typing — the stiff neck, the sore head and a feeling that someone was tightening a vice around my chest.

I think of other days when the keys seemed to have been striking the sides of my head and of hot summer days when my fingers were swollen and the messages from the brain to strike a certain key became disorientated and my fingers would not move in the right direction.

I like typing and to produce a well typed letter, document or rows of figures is rewarding, but the pain and stress is just the typist's lot. All this new equipment — data processors, computers and word processors — is only a futuristic typewriter bringing with it all the agony and stress of the now lowly typist. — Yours sincerely, Constance McEwen, Bangor, Co. Down.

THE first known astrological birth chart is scrawled on a wall of one of the great pyramids and so forth, but there, today's charts are more likely to be printed out on an Epson as more and more astrologers turn to computer technology.

Andrew Taylor is sales director of Linkplus Limited, a company formed in 1981, which sells and installs computer systems for large industrial organisations but which also specialises in predicting for astrologers what hardware and software will be best suited to their particular needs.

"Both my managing director and myself were astrologers and we met at an astrology conference at Warwick University," said Mr Taylor. "The commercial side of the business is our bread and butter, but we have 100 or so astrologers who use our services. We recently installed a Commodore 8086 for the president of the Astrology Association. If an astrologer is doing 300-400 charts per week, for instance, with a proper business practice needing a word processor and an accounting package as well, then I'm going to suggest something like the 8000 series or the Apple 3000."

"For someone on a smaller scale, say 30 charts per week, if someone is interested in the natal chart and not all the other ramifications we can offer such as progressions, lunar returns, even Hindu astrology, then the Spectrum's one we recommend. It's cheap and it offers the memory. For serious astrology you need at least 32K, with some of the more complicated programs going up to 256K."

"I first got interested in the subject myself when I bought a 2001 series Pet, when they first came into the country a few years ago. I got bored with playing games and decided to use the computer to do something worthwhile and different. Out of curiosity I turned to astrology, just working out the mathematical side

Mike Gerrard on why the 265K astrologer can thank his lucky stars

Signs of the times

of it at first, the movements of the planets and so forth, but then I moved on to read about the interpretation side and began to believe there was something in the subject."

Astrology came into the Linkplus fold as a sideline when they became distributors for Matrix Software from America, with about 100 programs covering most machines on the market. Commodore are covered from the Vic-20 upwards, and there are programs for the Apple II and III, Tandy, Epson, and even the ZX-81.

One of Linkplus's clients is Chrysta Craswell, president of the British Astrological and Psychic Society. Chrysta has been in business since November, 1978 and her first encounter with computers was in 1980 when she spent a year with the Findhorn community.

"They had an Apple computer which they used for their banking and so on, and even used it to write letters. There was someone there who was a novice astrologer but a complete computer buff, so we swapped knowledge and got Chrysta to write programs for the Apple. When I left I took a copy of the floppy disk with a main program on it, and as I then spent a year travelling I went all round the world with it."

"It was only when I got back I discovered I could have wiped the precious program out by carrying it through the computer. I was a bit of a novice astrologer but a complete computer buff, so we swapped knowledge and got Chrysta to write programs for the Apple. When I left I took a copy of the floppy disk with a main program on it, and as I then spent a year travelling I went all round the world with it."

for my business, and I chose that machine simply because I already had the program.

"At first I had the Apple, the box, the VDU, one disc drive and a printer. Later I bought a new interface card and added a disk drive. Since then I've bought a buffer, and a whole lot of other things, so everything's doing."

"It now takes about 14 minutes to print out a birth chart, with the information taking me about 20 seconds or so to key in. Before the computer, doing a chart by hand would take about 30 minutes — and was fairly quick. The computer frees me of a lot of mechanical work, looking up tables and so on, but even so I think 14 minutes is slow for a print-out. I've got an Epson FX-80, which is good, but I want to get a faster one."

"I had my Apple taken up to 64K, and with boxes I can get it even bigger, but that's more than enough for me at the moment. I also use the machine for my own accounts and I use it too for the membership mailing and other stuff for the British Astrological and Psychic Society, which was started in 1978 by Russell Grant."

Chrysta's Apple and printer go with her to exhibitions, such as the annual Festival of Mind, Body and Spirit at Olympia, where she provides an instant birth-chart service, together with a reading for anyone interested in taking it further.

"At exhibitions I discovered that where the other astrologers have their computers and have read all the books and know how to deal with the keyboard, like taking mine to bits, taking the top off to find out what everything does. I was wary of using the computer at first, because I was a bit of a novice. But eventually I learned that you've got to let the machine get on with what it does well, and this then frees you to do the things that you do well, like interpretation of the charts, which the machine can't do. Now I've realised that, it's fine."

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Closing date for applications 3rd May 1985.

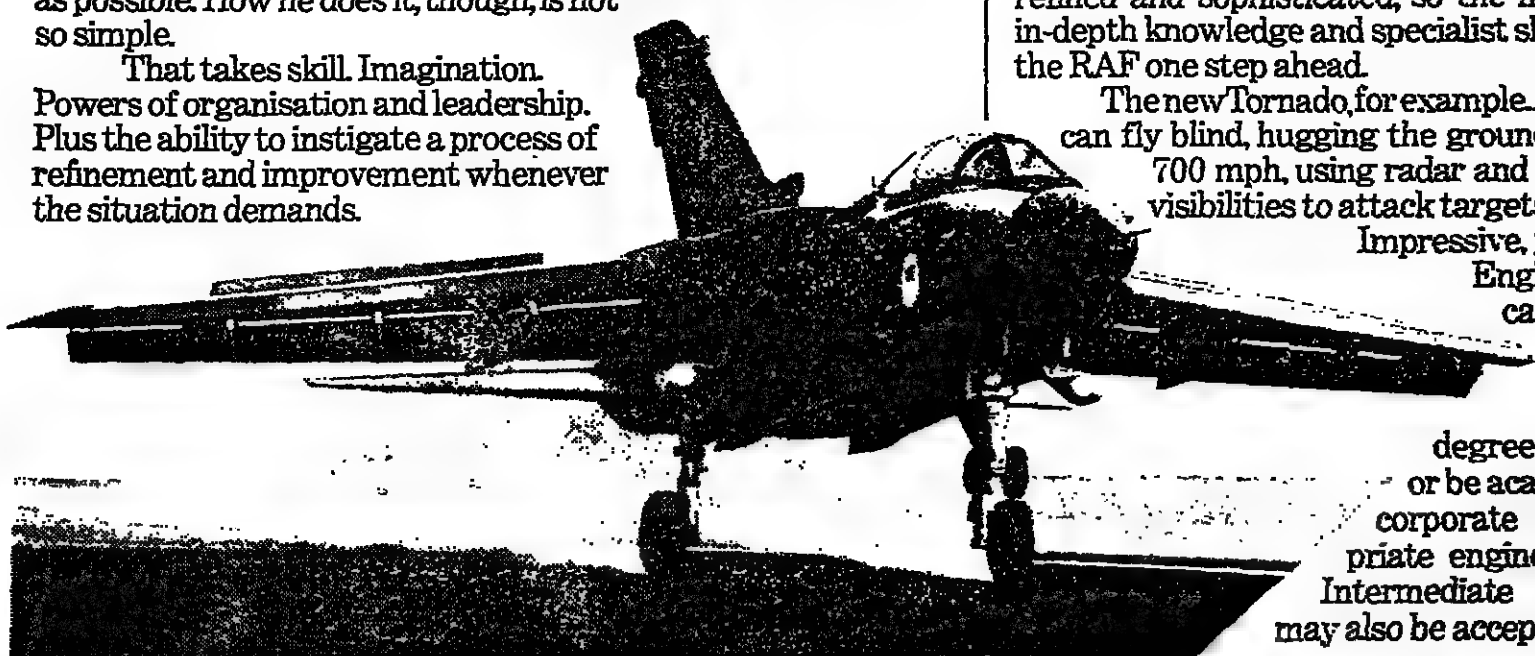
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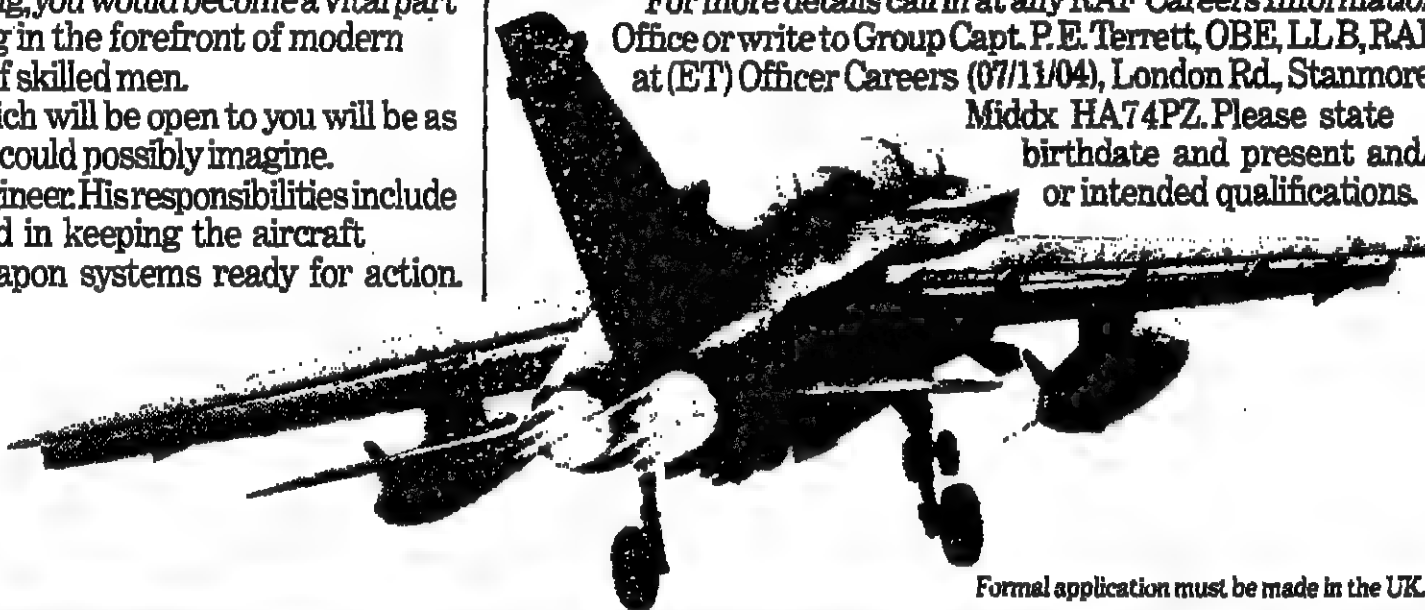
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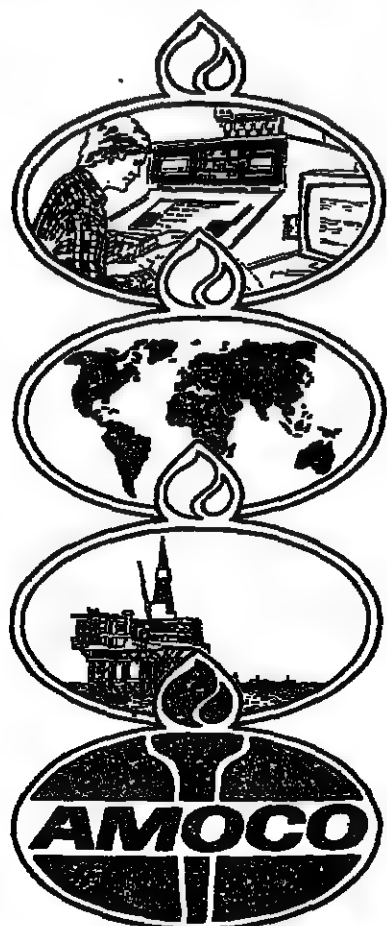
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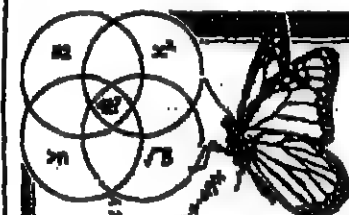


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ON PAGE 22

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I SUPPOSE you can't blame m'learned friends. If your chosen neck of the woods is libel then there is one client in particular that you would give—or at any rate hire for a modest fee—your back teeth to represent. Private Eye. So, as I say, you can hardly blame m'learned friends if these lush meadows engender a little professional jealousy from time to time.

Interlocutors in the story are Messrs Bindman, the fashionable North American firm who have traditionally done most of Private Eye's work and Mr Oscar Beuselnick, a partner in the Soho firm of Wright, Webb, & Co. dealing with increasing quantities of foreign goods.

This does not please Mr Bindman, who has written to Mr Beuselnick accusing him of nicking his client—only a trifle more legalistically worded than Beuselnick's usual likening solicitors to cabs at a cab rank, with clients able to pick and choose between them.

Matters became especially heated when the prized Parkinson writ was delivered to Beuselinck rather than Bindman. Bindman—has sought assurances from Richard Ingrams that he is still considered the main Private Eye solicitor. Mr Ingrams recently disclosed that half the profits from the magazine—which now sells around 250,000—go to lawyers. Considerable potatoes.

OH, the disappointment for those who had so eagerly awaited the publication at the end of last month of *Taxation of Land Development*, edited by Sheila Farrington. The £70 loose leaf book, published by Butterworths, was rare and a dedicated work on Development Land Tax. And then Nigel Lawson went and abolished Development Land Tax in the budget. "We are left with a book that we are unable to sell," said a plaintive Butterworths spokesman yesterday. He added pluckily: "But we are hoping to be able to adapt it."

WITH characteristic modesty Mrs. Thatcher tells The Standard: "I can't find jobs for everyone." No, but she has done her little bit. Max Harper from Stoke Prior — unemployed for two years — is just what a girl is called a "assistant" after writing to Mrs T about his plight.

The appointment came via his local job centre, which had been contacted by Downing Street. Mrs Harper now commands that any jobless person goes straight to the top: "I would definitely advise people to take this approach: go straight to the local MP or the prime minister. She's the best person to see, but she's back soon."

THE Law Society, beset by a series of PR disasters in recent times, has appointed a new public relations man to replace their last PR director, who resigned in difficult circumstances. He is Mr Michael Ward, former Peterborough Labour MP and a non-solicitor. Mr Ward's career in the field began as a director of T. Don Smith (London) Ltd.

MR. David Steel's voice can be heard more rife throughout the land. Ditto Mr. David Owen. For some considerable time now their parliamentary performances have been the subject of comment by the miscellaneous grunts, chants and witticisms of Mr. Dennis Skinner, who sits just in front of them and shares the use of their microphone.

But now, after intense lobbying, the Select Committee on House of Commons Services has finally decided to install for the first time microphones on both sides of the chamber "to help reduce the level of background noise." The move is also known as a lifeline for Ted Heath, who has hitherto had to make his way through the pocket of tame hecklers sharing a mike.

LUTON's growing reputation for the calibre of its football supporters will do nothing to assist Luton Council's bid to attract the town as an international tourist trap. Meetings have been held with both the English and Children's Tourist Boards and are clearing such grants as are available. The Council spokesman, a mastermind of the project, Walker, said yesterday: "We have got to be realistic. Luton is never going to be a tourist's paradise. What we are saying is we want to take advantage of what we are situated."

Walker added: "We have our airport. Yes, and a football club."

Alan Rusbridger

The logic behind the Western rejection of Gorbachev's offer of a freeze may be the wrong logic, argues DAVID FAIRHALL

Why superiority doesn't really count

MRS. HATCHER'S reaction to the armchew offer to freeze nuclear missile developments in Europe for six months while negotiations continue in Geneva is entirely understandable. It reflects the Prime Minister's usual style, which is to grasp at what she hopes is the essence of the problem and to thereafter refuse to be dissuaded by the complexities of a more complicated reality. It also reflects her role of thumb where foreign policy issues are concerned — it is to doubt, follow the Reagan line.

In this instance both these instincts have been unhelpful. For a start the presence of the European nuclear balance as she evidently perceives it is an extremely narrow one. She is overstressed on the particular danger posed by the new intermediate-range, land-based missiles — which happens to have attracted nearly all recent attention on both sides of the Atlantic disarmament debate. That the Soviet Union's mobile triple-headed SS-20 ballistic mis-

siles, being progressively deployed in Eastern Europe to replace obsolescent SS-4s and SS-5s, and on NATO's side the highly accurate, American Pershing IIs in West Germany and the ground-launched cruise missiles already at Greenham Common in England and coming to Moleesworth in 1988.

The reason this particular escalation has attracted so much attention is simple enough. Here is one category of nuclear weaponry in which the Americans really have fallen behind the Russians. The Pershing/Cruise programme was devised by the US in 1972, but adopted largely by its West European members, to fill an obvious gap. When all 600 NATO missiles are deployed in 1988, and if the Russians go on retiring old missiles as their SS-20s come into service, a rough balance may be established in launchers if not in warheads (because the SS-20 has three independently controlled warheads on each missile). But the move to the deployment has become both a public test of NATO's

political solidarity, with the Kremlin doing its best to do four things up to the four convenient means of anti-nuclear protest—as at Greenwich and Moleworth.

To this extent one can understand Mrs Thatcher saying that the Gorbachev offer would merely freeze a Soviet superiority. According to Nato intelligence, more than 400 SS-20s have already been transported to deployed areas, whereas the Nato programme still has a long way to go. The Dutch Government will not decide on deployment until November—just after the freeze is supposed to end. But the Prime Minister's statement is still a dangerous oversimplification. Designed as it was designed to do anything—merely to endorse the Pentagon's equally instantaneous reaction.

Nato's intermediate-range nuclear forces, which are politically important, are only one segment of a vast array, from nuclear capable artillery and aircraft through to intercontinental missiles and submarines, which the West is either superior or

interior to an extent which even the Pentagon's hardliners find acceptable. For instance, NATO has just decided unilaterally to reduce its European stockpile of battlefield nuclear weapons from 6,000 to 4,600. Among the nuclear bombers, new British and German Tornados are joining the American F-111s to match the Soviet Backfires.

In addition there are several American systems which impact greatly on the European balance but have been almost accidentally excluded from public debate — the 400 Poseidon submarine-launched warheads targeted by NATO's Supreme Commander, Europe, the US Navy's strike carriers, and the submarine launched cruise missiles that will progressively become operational aboard the American Los Angeles and Ohio class attack submarines.

There is nothing in this much broader balance to inhibit a political gesture — responding to the Gorbachev offer to the General negotiations

require it. It is this latter question Mrs Thatcher should have addressed in absentia and one might argue she has. She has to think at least twice before answering. She may already be convinced, as some members of the Reagan administration evidently are, that only a tough, belligerent approach to the Geneva talks will force concessions out of the Soviet negotiators. But that she should try so, not perpetuate the dangerous mutual psychosis about numerical superiority.

In total, there are far too many nuclear weapons around on both sides for any conceivable military purpose. If the British Government always intend to reject the case for unilateral reductions out of hand (which is not at all the same as abandoning nuclear weapons altogether) then the arms race, complicated nuclear war-fighting scenario as a function of deterrence, which to my knowledge Mrs Thatcher has never attempted to do, or fall back on, is the only way to avert the potential enemy's blackmail.

tions. Very difficult, expensive ground this might be. The Kremlin leadership one day said that the Soviet Union was an East-West crisis under the falsely confident impression that numerical superiority in some category of nuclear weapons gave them an advantage — even though they, like we, repeatedly state that nuclear war is "unwinnable." In that case, the Soviet perception would include a reflection of our own.

If Mrs. Thatcher shares the more cynical Pentagon view that Geneva is almost certainly a lost cause, then whether we take a hard line with Gorbachev or a conciliatory one, the way forward is not a return to counting warheads. It is a revival of the unfashionable concept of nuclear sufficiency. Forget, for a while, about arbitrary notions of parity and balance. How many weapons, and of which types, does Nato need to ensure a secure, minimum retaliatory capability? The Supreme Commander in Chief of the US, Gen. Bernard B. Boren, has given a lead in

in this direction during his review of the tactical school plan, deciding among others that the use of nuclear landmines make no military sense because they are politically unusable. The total he was working to, under political direction, may be far too large to satisfy his anti-nuclear critics, but his approach was a tremendous improvement on the military situation that preceded it.

If the Americans had the confidence to apply this approach across the board, the Soviet response would to a large extent be irrelevant. How many more missiles the Russians did or did not have in a particular category would no longer matter so much. And who knows? Their tendency to match every new US weapons system with an equivalent of their own—for instance, they have now announced they have three long range cruise missiles, air, land and sea—launched in imitation of the American systems—might gradually be transformed into a parallel process of blind-dog.

JOHN CUNNINGHAM
concludes his profile of
planning policy with a
look at two options
for cities of the future

Towns in the market for a new start

On the road to nowhere: time for fresh thoughts on new towns.
Picture by Don McPhee



WITHIN the next few weeks, a consortium of the biggest house builders in Britain is expected to announce plans for the first of a series of new small towns. The site is to be chosen from areas of development will be contrary to development partly because it is in a green belt, but even more so because the township will be entirely the product of private enterprise.

If the scheme gets under way, it will be both a working model and a potent symbol of " Thatcher's " constant projected construction of new towns by the private sector without grant or subsidy; the population of 15,000 would be home-owners who have paid for their own houses, drains and lighting, but also made a substantial financial contribution to their education and — health care facilities.

The consortium, which is said to have plans for some 15 towns, all within 50 miles of London, is choosing a model of development that is appropriate for the launch. But there is another serious reason, too. The developers argue that the project will create a small town between 40,000 and 70,000 houses by 1991 on the GLC's figures for the South East.

This may be correct, but the overall picture is that regional economic and demo-

graphic planning has been downgraded by the Government. There are to be no more new towns, certainly as we have known them, and questions about the best areas for new towns and satellite towns are hard to answer. It was Michael Heseltine, then Environment Secretary, who abolished housing targets set by Westminster. The Government gave its allegiance to regional development plans. Earlier, his Labour predecessor Peter Shore ended the new towns programme. Although much of the dismantling of the development corporations has taken place and will continue, under the present Government.

The Government's policy of little interest in public debate, the future development of towns is up for grabs by the unscrupulous and the unscrupulously greedy. Strategic planning—yet there are still noticeable population shifts as the recession hits industrial areas and the jobless migrate to the overpopulated South East. The bogey of overpopulation has diminished—but while the projected rise in number is a reason in need for new households. Single mothers with children can push up the figures appreciably, for instance.

The GLC estimates that

20,000 new homes, a year ago, needed to cope with these extra families, to reduce overcrowding, and to replace derelict property. But new housing completions were only 10,000 in 1980, compared with over 20,000 two years earlier. The private new town builders are basing their case on confused and contradictory statistics. The GLC and the Department of the Environment.

There is a dispute about the number of new households that will arise in the South East, and the number of existing families who might settle there: the GLC has forecast 400,000 more households in the South East since 1981, but present plans, inasmuch as they exist, would not accommodate anything like this number.

By saying the numbers are making something else, it is, thus, in the hasty abandonment of the new towns programme, the Government is making a serious contribution to the thought to the loss of communities we want in post-industrial Britain. We are saying goodbye not only to the new towns, but also to the legacy of expertise which could make life better for those displaced by the recession. New types of housing, new ways of home-based, and part-time

work might be relevant for millions of people. But the Government isn't interested. Instead it says it will patch up worn-out city centres.

So enter the private towns. These are to be built by a consortium. Developments, whose members include Bovis, Barratt, New Ideal, and Wimpey, The Government will, after a DoS inquiry, build a hole will be punched in the green belt. The Government will be attracted by the idea of 15,000,000 jobs. The private towns will be built on the outskirts of cities, of their own schools and clinics (precise details are still to be worked out). Such a community will make fewer demands on the welfare state than any smaller township.

The opportunist optimism behind these proposals is not shared by everyone in the Conservative ranks. David Birt, director of the Town and Country Planning Association, agrees there is a need for new settlements to absorb the nation's surplus population. But the Consortium's consultants are wrong in their analysis and prescription. He questions the whole logic of the plan, and is able to provide community and recreational facilities in the town, while keeping house prices within a reasonable range. The new town is critical also of the

Department of the Environment and its failure to give a lead to local authorities.

"A programme of new settlements should be pursued only if there is a genuine planning strategy into which they fit, and agencies for development that combine the private and public sector functions," he says.

But if Patrick Jenkin, the Environment Secretary, does sanction at least one private new town, he will be smiling favourably as well as on the grounds of a difference in ideology, conception and construction, which is being promoted by David Hall's own organisation, not the Government.

For another positive perspective on post-industrial Britain, go to Telford in Shropshire. There, on the west flank of the town, part of a 250-acre site has been earmarked for a new type of settlement. Unlike the new town itself, which is a Government initiative, the idea is that it will create livelihoods without destroying the countryside. It is being developed as their own by 100 owner-occupied families, many more currently needed than Hall estimates.

There is a need, say Hall, to have a distinct set of ingredients from a tradi-

tional town. The Lightmoor planters are working on green field sites. They are involved in decision-making to an unusual degree; there is an emphasis on self-help. They have built roads, roads and homes — and on energy-saving and conservation. Their occupations, once they get established, will be a mixture of craft skills and agriculture.

Lightmoor is a serious experiment — Hall reckoned there could be ten similar initiatives in the next five years. The area was an aberrant outlier on the side of a new town. The community has to fit in politically to the extent that the Local Development Corporation approved the plan and has confidence in it to the extent of eventually vesting ownership of the land in a trust. The TCPA has had to be a little more tactful. Patrick Jenkin — its self-help component apparently appealing to his political philosophy.

Jenkin presumably is attracted to what is called "sweat equity" — that is, participants can put in either money, or else act as volunteers in the construction of roads, drains and dwellings. The main worry at the moment, given the intense democracy of the scheme, is that the group will grow to enough members being seriously interested, and pre-

pared to commit themselves from start to finish. Among the founders so far are bricklayers, whose wife is interested in horticulture; a mechanic who wants to make a career of the type; a furniture chair; and a couple with careers in electronics. There is a shortage of plumbers and Hall says the core group needs to be enlarged to about 10 households.

A decade or more ago Lightmoor would have been written off as a hippy commune, and might have been dismissed as a group of thirty people, but now it is endorsed as a serious prototype for late 20th century settlements. In this, it is one of the few with the approval of the Government, which also are bidding for Government attention. Both, in their way, are tiny trail experiments. As socialist, nuclear, and anti-racist, private, the experimental scale of new towns. It is as if their planners know that the big focus is going to be, in future, on the inner cities, and that, in the out city centres and that, in the small margin for alternatives, their projects might just exist.

... the limidity, with work patterns changing and the jobs market shrinking for millions of people, does not inspire confidence for the recession. It won't be the towns planners.

The invasion that just won't go away

ALTHOUGH the circumstances of its withdrawal from South Lebanon are shrouded in confusion and uncertainty, it would appear that Israel is planning to reserve a "security belt" manned by its Lebanese proxies that stretches all the way to Sidon. As the continued heavy fighting round the city shows and which yesterday prompted Prime Minister Rashid Karami to boycott cabinet meetings until further notice, Israel has thereby obtained a platform for manipulation and interference that reaches into the geographical and political heart of the country.

Reportedly, Israel is at the point of carrying out another stage of a general pull-back that should be completed by the end of May. This is expected to take it out of the Shi'ite areas of Tyre and Nabatieh, both strongholds of resistance, and into the communally mixed Litani Valley. In the Shi'ite areas, Israel's Lebanese

proximity forces — General Antouni Lahar's South Lebanese army — will be no more capable of holding its own than they were in the Sidon area — from which it was pulled out in February and, such as they are, they will disappear along with the Israelis. But this is clearly not intended to happen in the almost exclusively Christian segment of the Lebanese intercommunal mosaic — Jezzín and a cluster of villages in the hills above Sidon — whose whole future the withdrawal has thrown into such doubt. There the SLA, together with a distinct, but closely related, MBDA, the pro-Syrian Lebanese resistance, are apparently destined to stay put.

When the fighting broke round Sidon three weeks ago, all sides — however they might dispute its origins — recognised it as a major landmark in the process of Lebanon's dismemberment, a body blow to President Gemayel's efforts to restore the authority

of the central government. It pitted units of the Lebanese army, despatched to Sidon in the wake of the Israeli withdrawal, assisted by local Muslim militias and Palestinian guerrillas, against the Lebanese forces already solidly entrenched, and recently reinforced, in the heavily fortified city. On both sides crunched artillery and sniper fire—with the densely populated city getting much the worse of it—a green line* has established itself and now separates Christians and Muslims who used to mingle freely even more thoroughly than does its long-established counterpart in Beirut.

It is the psychological damage, more than the geographic ones, that will determine the course of events in this new zone of intercommunal strife. And here, where Christians and Muslims already run deep, for most inhabitants, the fighting seems to have come as a surprise, and they wish it had never happened. But the

fact that it has its strengtheners in those forces within the community who believe that ultimate security lies with Israel rather than with a Lebanon that can no longer be restored to its old formula of intercommunal coexistence.

Further, they believe this even at the inevitable price of chronic violence of the kind that is already under way, and claustrophobic isolation from the rest of the world, a condition which might "I would prefer to lose a relative or two every now and then in artillery bombardments than to be massacred," said a resident of the area in what appeared to be a characteristic assessment of Muslim intentions towards their Christian compatriots.

It is all the easier in such a climate—a direct consequence of its invasion—for large numbers of Christians to "whole Jesus" salvation into its "security belt." For the signs are that, in spite of all its setbacks in Lebanon and the blows being dealt by the Shiite led National Resistance,

Israelis are still insisting on retaining a zone of indirect control much deeper than the one which, under the nominal command of the late Major Saad Haddad, it developed before its 1982 invasion. That was a narrow strip between Unfilil and the Litani. The signs are that the new one will slice through the eastern part of the Unfilil zone to take in bridges over the Litani river, the strategic Beaufort Castle on its northern bank, and the Habsaya area in the southern approaches to the Bekaa Valley. The Jizzin segment will be linked to the zone by a corridor.

At present Colonel Lahad's SLA operates, in conjunction with the Israelis, as far as Kfar Fnglms, six miles from Sidon. Beyond that the Lebanese New Forces conducts the actual fighting against the Syrians. Officially it takes its orders from anti-Syrian rebels from East Beirut, but it is largely armed and trained by the Israelis, and its men move freely in and out of Israeli

According to a pro-Israeli local notice, the Israelis have pledged that, after their withdrawal, they will intervene if necessary to help their proteges against any attack from one or all of the adversaries—Druze, Moslem, Palestinian—who surround them. In return, however, the Israelis are demanding that the inhabitants make that the Christians make a greater contribution to the S.L.A. and, on Tuesday, a few hundred young men enrolled in its ranks.

Whether the Israelis keep such promises no doubt depends, in good measure, on what price their own troops have to pay in support of their Lebanese proteges. But meanwhile, unless and until President Assad orders a force down to Sidon to stop the fighting—and there is little sign of it yet — the Israelis have fashioned for themselves a powerful tool for disrupting all progress

towards the reconstruction of the country and undermining Syria's patiently won ascendancy over it.

OVER THE

53rd officer, I'm not a Millwall supporter - I'm a Young Conservative!



A cartoon illustration showing two men in conversation. The man on the left is wearing a light-colored, double-breasted suit jacket and is speaking. The man on the right is wearing a dark uniform with a peaked cap, suggesting a police or security role, and is listening. In the background, there is a large, stylized star and some architectural elements like a brick wall. The drawing is done in a simple, bold line style.

DAVID HIRST on how Israel's occupation of Lebanon will not end with withdrawal

According to a pro-Israeli local notabile, the Israelis have pledged that, after their withdrawal, they will intervene if necessary to help their proteges against any attack from one or all of the adversaries—Druse, Moslem, Palestinian—who surround them. In return, however, the Israelis are demanding that the inhabitants make, that the Christians, the Moslems, and the Druses contribute to the S.L.A. and, on Tuesday, a few hundred young men enrolled in its ranks.

Whether the Israelis keep such promises no doubt depends, in good measure, on what price their own troops have to pay in support of their Lebanese proteges. But meanwhile, unless and until President Gemayel—or Syria—send an effective force down to Sidon to stop the fighting—and there is little sign of it yet—the Israelis have fashioned for themselves a powerful tool for disrupting all progress

towards the reconstruction of the country and undermining Syria's patiently won ascendancy over it.



GUARDIAN BOOKS

The literary Civil War

by Raymond Williams

Writing and Revolution in 17th Century England: Volume One of the Collected Essays of Christopher Hill (Harvester, £28.50)

IF IT is supposed that we have a national literature, and that it is part of what is now called our heritage, it is not surprising that those who actually read that vast diversity of writing become involved in disputes that reach to our own time.

Among several causes of dispute, the writing of the seventeenth century has been pre-eminent. There are larger changes, in that century, of material and of audiences or public, than in any other comparable period. Yet arguments about the nature of these changes have always, explicitly or implicitly, reached beyond the frontiers of critical and scholarly dispute.

The significance of the general transformations of that century — social and economic, political and cultural — is inescapable to anyone who knows its complex history, knows also that "our heritage" is profoundly contentious and divisive.

The great strength of this first volume of Christopher Hill's collected essays is that he has rooted himself in that century. So much is this so that he can write, at first sight curiously, that he has "the advantage of coming to Defoe from the seventeenth century."

What he means, and what his essays justify, is that he is immersed in the details of that extraordinary time and yet that he can look both into and beyond it with the special insights of an unusually close historian. His direct knowledge of its writings, of its poets, dramatists, diarists, pamphleteers and reasoners, is a major factor in his kind of history. We can indeed adapt what he says of Defoe: that he learned "not from a few books but from a lifetime's immersion in a cultural environment."

Much of the earlier literary controversy was centred on Milton, with extending arguments about the "metaphysical" poets and Marvell. These figures are here again, with

fine essays on Milton and Marvell, and on Vaughan. There is a range of studies, from Traherne to Rochester, and from the Leveller pamphleteers to Pepys. Yet the most general interest of the collection may be in its emphasis on the effects of censorship, to which he draws attention in his preface.

There is not only an exceptionally useful general account of the changing process of censorship through the century. There is also a repeated awareness, in studies of particular writers and forms, of the changing pressures and limits on what is too often studied as writing wholly directed by itself. At the same time, as in the opening essay on the pre-revolutionary decades, this sense of limits and pressures is not confined to the many overt prohibitions and interventions.

There is also a fine sense of the interaction of forms and audiences, which goes well beyond simple censorship but which in its many internal, willing or unwilling, adaptations is again and again a large part of the real history of writing. This is interesting in as apparently remote a case as Traherne, but it is at its most striking in the fascinating discussion of the drama and in the internal development of the "metaphysical" lyric.

What underlies all these specialist studies is a convincing sense of the complex processes of thinking and feeling, and with these of writing: the more impressive when applied to a period in which great causes were declared, and were fought and suffered for. It is used often to be the case that to recognise such complexity was to cancel or reduce the causes, in a higher "literary" sensibility which could be distanced from politics but then, as turned, served, become effectively anti-political: supposedly wise recognition of timeless conflicts.

Christopher Hill's achievement, for this decisive century, is to return the complexity to its active, often still active roots. It is then by entering and trying to understand that long struggle, rather than, as in Eliot, offering to rise above it in modern critical generalisation, that the real complexities are disclosed.

Fair of Speech, edited by D. J. Enright (Oxford, £9.95)

SOME words, pretty in the slaver of even a malicious mouth, are like the tiny white flowers which blossom in March on the blackthorn bush. They deflect the eye, and sometimes the mind, from the barbarous thicket of a word which they dance with a summer delicacy in the blizzard of east winds. A froth, so to speak, of little white lies: a way of seeing things when peeping out from the shelter of a word which is carefully nailed together with discreet phrases not cut against the grain.

Fair of Speech is a collection of unfailingly entertaining essays from the long grass beyond the hut about "the uses" of "euphemism." Imagine, then, a veined and hairy scout thrusting down with expert disdain at all the fraudulent little blooms which decorate but only occasionally disguise the sinister realities. What a critic's euphemism would call a rag-bag of contributors — 16 of them, all with armpits, plus their non-decorating editor, D. J. Enright — only snarl long and deep through yes, yes perfectly natural conduits of wit and slyness to find when all is said and done that there is still a stench riding on the sweetest breeze.

No-one who gets his effervescence from the antic disposition of the bottle will need to be persuaded of the value of fastidiousness in speech. Give me, please, language which veils the workings of the bowel. Forget the pus in the boil, the whistle in the denture, the crotch-shot, the retelling

A heavy hand with little white lies

Dennis Potter reviews a collection of over-eager essays on the use of euphemism

corpse in the wormy still, or the million other prior afflictions, infestations, wounds, farts, scabs and stinks of our steadily decaying flesh. Squirt me the second nozzle, I am one in spirit with those coy New Yorkers who use a pooper-scooper and not a shit-shovel to clean up after their dogs.

Death and sex and what the self-stung blurb staidly calls "other natural functions" would be less approachable without a saire of softened words under an occlusive sentiment. Many of the contributors show an ambivalence between the desire for grace and eagerness to condemn the hypocrisies of convenient lies.

It is an old dilemma. Too often, of course, the gaps open wide between language and deed, phrase and function, bandage and wound, to let in the bacilli of the contaminated world. The type which can convulse the nervous system, as when nasty little boys at the back of the class are unable to suppress helpless laughter.

Much of the entertainment in the collection comes from precisely this low form of hilarity, made worse by the equally comical solemnity of scholar or specialist lifting the silvered lid of something nasty. It is the kind of book to take to bed with a po-faced and windy stomach.

The unavoidable fault of the collection, once its arrangement had been decided, lies in the fragmentation of the subject under so



Memento mori from the Lisle psalter, early 14th century; from The Flowering of the Middle Ages, a sumptuously illustrated collection of brief essays — Christopher Brooke on medieval society, George Zarnecki on the religious orders, T.S.R. Boase on 'King Death', and others — edited by Joan Evans (Thames & Hudson, £18)

many different hands and interests. Slippery words slide too easily into the right boxes. Euphemisms (and dysphemisms, their nasty-minded opposites) from literature, the law, religion, children's speech, politics, medicine, advertising and the office are among those separately essayed to add to the words on the wrong side of the blanket. There is even the uncertain

pleasure of an uncosmetic Richard Cobb splashing about in alien urinals to show what our neighbours do when they alter on le roi as a pied. Looking for a Booker winner, perhaps.

Words often edge away from what it is they are meant to describe, avoiding both the humdrum and the threatening: the shift can be detected even here, where

the transposition is itself under review. Unease flickers in one piece, flares in another, dies in a third. Hatred occasionally leers out from behind the lattice of cosy jargon, like gargoyles in a wall of words, and then are banished with a quip.

D. J. Enright's lightly graceful introduction, characteristic of the general tone of an undemanding book, compen-

sates for the scatter by glancing towards the more profound and alarming consequences of not seeing straight.

Peter Mullen's bitterly passionate denunciation of the seemingly faithless timidities of the New English Bible, provides in itself an unintended commentary on the ways in which we can now express conviction. His anger, or even grief, presses so hard within a satirical polemical style that his own belief teeters towards that depressingly jovial facetiousness which beleaguered clergymen are in danger of making their own. The very errors of style and confidence he is condemning have faced themselves into his attacks.

The Devil may indeed be walking up and down in the world, but we cannot call him that, let alone recognise his uniform. Our heads retain their old shapes, but the stuff inside gets "refurbished." We are foolhardy with our tongues, and dangerous when we stretch our lips.

In a culture as achingly empty as is so much of our own, whose arts and literature appear shudderingly explicit and wide open to the truth of things, the enormity of our plight has to be hidden by concepts which go so far beyond the balm of "euphemism" as to be insane.

We are peeping out now not from the woodshed, but the bomb shelter. And the last word of that sentence, of course, is the euphemism to end all euphemisms, and any other discourse as well.

Scots revisions

by Caroline Tisdall

John Prebble's Scotland (Secker, £12.95)
Scotland's Story, by Tom Steel (Collins, £12.95)
Highland Drive, by John Keay (John Murray, £9.95)

NO NATION revises its history as constantly as the Scots. The Irish and the Welsh by comparison are slow starters, tinkering with minor details. But with the Scots, waves of interpreters, like the invaders of the past, back away at the very core of the whole romanticised edifice.

In the recent batch of books, clans can be seen as predatory cattle thieves, heroes fallible, traditional villains like the Campbells no worse than other opportunists and the issue of the Clearances no longer quite so clear. Meanwhile, most of us have by now accepted that many of the tartans, symbols of romance and excellence, are no more traditional or authentic than whisky made in Japan.

Like many of the more charming aspects of Scottishness a fair proportion are concoctions fermented by Walter Scott and Co to please the visiting English monarch in 1822. In the past the succoured the romantic view of history. Today they sustain the reality of modern Scotland: the need for jobs and the pleasure of tourists.

The dominant tone of the new view is as pragmatic as that, in marked contrast to the anger and nationalism of the past two decades. It is just over 20 years since John Prebble's The Highland Clearances was published, a devastating account of the bitter debates. Some of these encounters are recalled in his latest book, John Prebble's Scotland, but peppery Prebble has mellowed. He revisits landscapes first dreamed of in his Canadian childhood, and finds them as enduring as the lives of old friends who once lived among them as transitory.

He still argues a point and never misses a chance to highlight an injustice, but now we find him magnanimously laying flowers on the graves of the traditional villains of Culloden, the Campbells and the English. An intelligent, slightly melancholy book, handsomely illustrated and ideal for a journey.

All hell would have broken out if Prebble and Tom Steel had encountered each other 20 years ago. Steel's Scotland's Story is subtitled A New Perspective, and it is a pragmatic one. The book is easier to digest than the television series it accompanied because this perspective is traceable amidst the masses of facts.

His line of argument, from early tribes to the present, is that Scotland's woes and defeats have a certain inhe-

rent inevitability, given the diversity of her people and their different cultures: Picts, Scots, Angles, Britons, Highland or Lowland, Gael or not, and all of them far removed from the market place of modern economics.

In Steel's interpretation, this conflict, however painful, is the root cause of the creativity and inventiveness of the Scottish people. So the great waves of emigration of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries are seen as ultimately positive in the opening up of vast tracts of the New World to Scottish influence and fortune, and a fair proportion of the book, like the TV series, deals with the wealth and power amassed by Scots in the United States, Canada and Australia.

In this vein the Clearances, while providing in Steel's opinion "a source of inspiration to poets, novelists and journalists," are seen in the perspective of "a restless, changing age, and as in all such periods of history sections of society, often inadvertently, get hurt." It is unfortunate that the numbers of Scots still "getting hurt" into emigration in 1980 should have been inadvertently reduced by a printing error on the last page from 25,000 to 2,500.

For two hundred years Highland journeys have been a popular way of recording history and the lives of "Nature's gentlemen and scholars." The Highlanders Dr Johnson was an early whistle-stop tourist, while Thomas Pennant's journeys of the 1770s are still invaluable sources for scholars and historians, as well as latter-day romantics like John Keay. In 1981 he set out to follow the old cattle drovers' route from the Isle of Skye to Crieff, 200 miles in all, in the company of 30 head of Highland cattle, and a motley band of friends, sponsors and the occasional TV crew anxious for action.

The cattle, 29 docile bulls and a flighty female, were clearly amazed at this anachronism in these days of the cattle trucks. In cabots perhaps with "the cruelty people" of the animal protection societies who kept a hawk-eye on the enterprise, they refused to swim from Skye to the mainland, unlike their ancestors. Further in to their ancestral walk, having developed "a plodding harmony" with their drovers, their great curving horns went indignantly floppy due to an excessive modern dose of magnesium.

But they all got there in the end, and the account is marvellously entertaining and sometimes self-debunking. John Keay wisely quotes the cynical African chief who said: "Take as well as you can." But at the same time Highland Drive gives real insight into the days when the wealth of the Highlands was cattle and people.

Simon and the Witch/Margaret Stuart Berry/Puffin/£1.25

The Machine-Gunners/Robert Westall/Puffin/£1.25

The Eye of the Dragon/Dave Morris/Graeme/£1.50

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory/Roald Dahl/Puffin/£1.25

A Proper Little Nooryeff/Jean Ure/Puffin/£1.10

Elidor/Alan Garner/Fontana/£1.50

The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe/C.S. Lewis/Fontana/£1.50

Astrix and the Black Gold/Goscimny and Uderzo/Hodder & Stoughton/£1.95

Starstormers/Nicholas Fisk/Knight (Hodder & Stoughton)/£1.50

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LONDON
APRIL
BOOKFAIR

The lawyers invade the City and the governor doesn't really fancy their brief



NOTEBOOK
Peter Rodgers

BEHAVE like gentlemen, not like lawyers searching for a loophole to exploit in every regulation. That was the gist of the message last night from former lawyer Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, governor of the Bank of England, who is worried that old habits of

obeying the spirit and not just the letter of the City's rules are breaking down. If they do, it could mean American-style detailed regulation of every nook and cranny of the market.

The Governor was firing a deliberate warning shot not just across the bows of the senior bankers at the Lombard Association where he spoke but also to all the brokers, jobbers and emerging securities conglomerates which are building up ready for the Stock Exchange's "big bang" next year. Though he was giving private to the Bank to release the one page extract in which he expressed his concern.

Profits are harder to earn as competition steps up in difficult times, said Mr Leigh-Pemberton. Supervisors therefore start to define standards more precisely, as the new Securities and Investment Board will shortly be doing.

As the governor pointed out, in some places — New York is the prime example — the rules are defined legally and it is accepted practice to put the test of any requirement under a microscope to test for loopholes. I think I have detected once or twice recently signs that, within the City, some may be tempted to move towards a similar approach. Were my fears to be confirmed, would be a very sad day for all of us.

In other words, watch out, or the SIB and the other supervisory bodies will be transformed into a British version of the US Securities and Exchange Commission with a huge rulebook. Some of the bankers at last night's meeting may have squirmed in their seats. Among the things that angered the governor recently were attempts to exploit loopholes in the new controls on off-balance sheet lending by banks.

Full frontal

In the City, the Hungarian International Bank is famous mainly for being aggressively and successfully capitalising without any public trace of ideology. But it is still hard to miss the irony in a Communist owned bank's decision to back Eddie Shah, founder of the National Graphical Association, who is launching a full frontal assault on the print unions with a new £20 million national newspaper where there will definitely be no closed shop.

HIB's managing director Mr Tim Newling said yesterday that the hire purchase deal for printing presses was entirely commercial. The bank has good printing industry contacts and is leading a small consortium put together after an approach from the equipment manufacturer, Man Roland of West Germany. "We know a fair amount about printing presses," he added.

Mr Shah had "a very good well funded company" and project. I think it is going to be very successful. Members of the group are happy with the quality of the presses and the financing terms are good. Mr Shah has made a deposit of £15 million on the five presses and the group of banks is financing the £6.3 million balance.

The deal has been completed, and only delivery is awaited. Will HIB do more business with Eddie Shah? "I'd love to in the future," says Mr Newling.

Mr Newling thought that a larger share of the APT project is likely to be incorporated in the passenger carriages of the new generation of locomotives called the Electra. These carriages, which have not yet been ordered, will contain the tilt mechanism.

The tilt system of the APT, developed by British Rail at a cost of over £40 million, allows the train to corner faster than conventional locomotives. But after breaking the speed record on the London-Glasgow

airborne interview was quite extraordinary, and never mind the fact that the same sort of numbers have already been published.

The inflation figures hidden away on page 10 of the Budget Red Book are the working assumptions of Civil Service forecasters, and everybody knows that that is usually pie in the sky. The Red Book says inflation in the last likely year for an election, 1987-8, will be 3.5 per cent while for 1988-9 it will sink to 3 per cent.

You do not hear Red Book assumptions thrown around on the hustings. But once a Prime Minister elevates the numbers to the status of a target and even expresses the hope of going lower in two or three years time, you are into a different and entirely political game.

Mr Thatcher will have to try and stick with the newly launched target or risk having the tumbler Mrs 3 per cent thrown in her face during the campaign. So the current emphasis on tight monetary policy and

high interest rates whenever the pound sinks and inflation rises is not a passing phase, or a final dose of nasty medicine before the pre-election sweeteners start to arrive. It could be with us until polling day.

Why be surprised? We've had six years of tight budgets. Last year's market belief that the Government was retreating by stealth proved an illusion. If you believe the Bank of England's rationalisations after the event, contained in the latest quarterly bulletin, that impression only gained ground because the Government was misreading the money and bank lending figures anyway, a mistake rather than a shift of policy.

So nothing much has changed and now the Prime Minister has made it clear that she does not want it to for the foreseeable future. How she reconciles this with the political necessity to do something more about unemployment in the run up

to the election will be a treat to see, especially as the Government's whole approach to the jobless is increasingly threadbare. (See page 25.)

The high pay rises which the government blames for unemployment are all with the better off, not with the poor who the Chancellor claims should price themselves downwards into work.

New pitch
MOULSDALE's move into the London pits market breaks ground in itself — the first firm to take up a new jobbing pits pitch for at least 15 years. It is also well practised in dual capacity. Until 11 years ago it operated both functions, but had to split the business — started back in 1975 — into two when all the country's Stock Exchanges amalgamated. All skills will be needed for the predicted blood bath.

Llandarcy cutback will save £15m a year

BP to axe 750 jobs at Welsh refinery

By Mary Brasher
BP Oil has shed 750 jobs in South Wales as part of plans to end crude oil refining at its plant in Llandarcy, near Swansea.

The company is to restructure the Llandarcy refinery in an attempt to restore its profitability and three-quarters of the current 1,100-strong workforce will be laid off from July.

Crude oil processing will be halted by the end of this year and the plant will concentrate on producing lubricants and specialist oils.

BP Oil's chief executive, Mr Ian Walker, said the closure of Llandarcy's refining operations would save £15 million a year, and was part of a long-term programme to tackle overcapacity.

Llandarcy is the third refinery BP has shut down in three years, and from next year Grangemouth in Scotland, one of the company's four original refineries, will still be processing crude oil.

Shutting Llandarcy will remove another 8.5 million tons of crude capacity, which has been slashed from 17.5 million tons to 8.5 million tons since 1982.

BP claimed yesterday that although the refinery is still in the black almost all its profit last year came from lubricants. "Straight refining was at best break even and long term the future is worse and Llandarcy will move into losses," said a spokesman.

News of the cutbacks is another blow to job prospects in one of the highest unemployment blackspots in Wales. The area has already suffered from job losses at Metal Box, Borg Warner, and BSC's Port Talbot works which has shed 7,000 employees. Mr Michael Rush, chief executive of West Glamorgan county council, said BP's decision could have serious repercussions. "As well as the direct job losses, hundreds of other jobs depend on the refinery."

Local union officials were angry at the surprise nature of the announcement, which they described as "out of the blue".

Most of the job losses will occur in shutting down the main fuel processing and cracking operations. But the refinery also includes an ocean terminal at Angle Bay employing 30 which will be shut down. Operations at Queens Dock and the Swansea Road Distribution Terminal are expected to continue.

BP hopes to counter some of the impact of its rationalisation by expanding the lubricants operations at Llandarcy and has held out the hope of £15 million of new investment. The plans have not been agreed but could include a £5 million bitumen plant.

Welsh secretary Mr Nicholas Edwards said BP has discussed its plans for Llandarcy and he welcomed the new investment. Closure costs if BP had shut down Llandarcy altogether are estimated at £36 million.

Bank holds to gilts plan

By Margaret Pagan
City Correspondent
THE BANK OF ENGLAND's white paper on the structure of the gilt market, which is due this week, is unlikely to depart radically from the proposals unveiled in last November's draft paper.

Reaction to the draft "blue paper" from the City and potential applications to the new market has been described as muted. Comments are said to have focused on technical details rather than the fundamental features which have been outlined, which follow closely the US primary government securities market.

While there has been a fair share of criticism over the proposal that all primary gilt dealers must be members of the Stock Exchange — for regulatory purposes — it is widely accepted that initial membership is inevitable.

But the latest document, which the Bank has scheduled to publish this week, does reflect many of the more technical comments and proposals which have been suggested to it. It is likely to take a tougher line on the secondary gilt market than the original plan.

The paper will also set out the timetable for applications from potential gilt market-makers who will now be able to start individual discussions with the Bank over their particular trading requirements, and whether they fit the criteria.

On the heels of the Bank's paper came news of another City realignment yesterday to prepare for the dramatic changes which will take place once the money held by the two jobbing firms in the gilt market is abolished.

Phillips & Drew, one of the three largest gilt brokers, is taking a 5 per cent stake in the Liverpool City jobbers Moulden, P & D, which is linked with the Union Bank of Switzerland, has already declared its desire to become a major player in the Liverpool City jobbers market.

The sale of the Government's 48 per cent shareholding in BAE and the firm's own money-raising exercise are due to be launched on the stock market early next month.

overseas partners in their bid to clinch the order.

British Aerospace is still smarting from its recent failure to clinch a £200 million order from the Ministry of Defence to supply trainer aircraft to the Royal Air Force. The order, potentially worth up to £1 billion with export orders, went to Short Bros of Belfast in partnership with the Brazilian firm, Embraer.

BAe could lose Saudi contract

By our Industrial Staff
A contract which has earned British Aerospace around £1.3 billion in recent years is due to be lost in three months after the forthcoming £600 million share sale by the Government and BAE.

The deal, to provide training and back-up to the air force in Saudi Arabia, runs out in August and BAE is not expected to be renewed automatically.

A new contract from the Saudis would be worth around £500 million and secure the jobs of 1,600 aerospace workers over the next three years. Rival companies are already

drawing up plans to compete with BAE for the Saudi contract. Mrs Thatcher is due to meet King Fahd on Sunday for trade talks, and the air force deal is likely to be high on the agenda.

BAE officials say they are "reasonably optimistic" of retaining the contract. The firm hopes its long involvement with the Saudis will help swing the order. BAE has held the contract since 1978.

It is thought that both the United States and France are anxious to extend their trade links with the oil-rich Saudis, and British firms might choose

Call for ECGD inquiry

By Michael Smith
Labour's trade spokesman, Mr Eric Gollard has demanded a full investigation into reports of a £200 million fraud involving the State-owned Export Credits Guarantee Department.

Mr Gollard yesterday called on Trade and Industry Secretary Mr Norman Tebbit to act urgently.

However ECGD officials were yesterday playing down suggestions that it was involved in a fraud running into hundreds of millions of pounds. It was suggested that investigations being carried out involved sums of "hundreds of thousands" of pounds.

It was confirmed that the City of London Fraud Squad was investigating two or three cases involving the ECGD, the Government department which guarantees British firms in export markets.

The ECGD was not prepared to discuss details of the cases, which were referred to the Fraud Squad several months ago.

The Fraud Squad would only confirm that officers were investigating aspects of ECGD operations.

Goldsmith offer

Sir James Goldsmith yesterday launched a bid for control of Crown Zellerbach Corporation. He offered to pay \$42.50 a share for between 14 million and 16 million shares of the forest-products concern, but only if Crown Zellerbach withdraws a complex anti-takeover provision.

Sir James, who has been stalling the company for several months, already owns 8.5 per cent of Crown Zellerbach's 27.2 million total shares outstanding.

New generation of locos for BR

By Michael Smith
Industrial Editor
Technological spin-offs from the revolutionary tilting Advanced Passenger Train are to be incorporated in a new generation of locomotive called the Electra. These carriages, which have not yet been ordered, will contain the tilt mechanism.

run, the APT was later withdrawn because of difficulties with the tilting mechanism. British Rail has since ordered a further 10 locomotives to be built on West Coast. Competition to build the new locomotive is likely to be intense, especially as British Rail has made it clear that it will continue to bid from foreign manufacturers. Also, a successful order from a private customer like British Rail would open up the possibility of orders from railways throughout the world.

It was emphasised last night that a larger share of the APT project is likely to be incorporated in the passenger carriages of the new generation of locomotives called the Electra. These carriages, which have not yet been ordered, will contain the tilt mechanism.

locomotives for the East Coast operation between London and Edinburgh, but it has plans to purchase a further 10 locomotives for use on West Coast. Competition to build the new locomotive is likely to be intense, especially as British Rail has made it clear that it will continue to bid from foreign manufacturers. Also, a successful order from a private customer like British Rail would open up the possibility of orders from railways throughout the world.

Shell and BHP in £443m bid

By Andrew Cornelius
Broken Hill Proprietary, Australia's biggest company, has joined forces with Royal Dutch Shell Group, to mount a \$443 million takeover bid for an Australian exploration company which holds the key to a \$5 billion gas sales project.

Woodside Petroleum, the operator for the North West Shelf liquefied gas project in Western Australia, has long been viewed as the stumbling block in negotiations to complete a joint venture to sell 6.6 million tonnes of liquefied gas each year to eight Japanese utilities.

BHP and Shell, who together hold 42 per cent of Woodside's shares, maintain that Woodside's project is if they succeed

Hungary backs new UK paper

The Communist-owned Hungarian National Bank today confirmed it is backing newspaper entrepreneur Mr Eddie Shah in his plan to launch a new national daily.

Mr Shah said the newspaper would be on sale seven days a week, and would be "picketed" between the Mirror and the Telegraph. "It would not have a narrow, political view. We want to cater for the middle, thinking people who want to make up their own mind and do not want comment served up as news. He stressed: "The Hungarian Bank will not have any of the shares in the company. This is like the hire purchase of a car. There is no way they could affect the editorial content of the paper."

He said he had been "disappointed with the attitude of British banks. The new newspaper will involve a total of around £22 million finance — including just under £10 million share capital — and will be separate from his Messenger company.

Mr Shah said he would have more than 30 per cent of the shares. More than half the share capital had come from six investing institutions, including Canover Investments, arm of the British and Commonwealth Investment in new ventures, the Bricmain investment, more wealth. Shipping Group and the Scottish Investment Trust.

He expected the others to announce their involvement within the next few days but declined to name them.

Mr Shah said he would like to float the company and offer shares to the public in two or three years.

He wanted to see 10 per cent of its shares going to staff a year or so after it started trading and likewise was hoping some 20 per cent of Messenger shares would go to staff in the next two years.

Spectrum suffers from micro plague

By Andrew Cornelius
Spectrum Group, which distributes Acorn, Commodore and Sinclair home computers, has fallen victim to the problems which have plagued the industry since the pre-Christmas trading period.

Fierce price cutting and a defect rate of up to 30 per cent on some models have forced Spectrum into the red in the latest half year. To date, the company has lost £1.74 million in the last six months, when the company joined the United Securities Market.

inordinately high level of returned defective product prevalent in the industry. Spectrum will make more details available when it publishes interim figures in two weeks' time. Meanwhile, Mr Stern warns shareholders that the directors believe "that it is possible that the group has traded at an overall loss for that period."

Spectrum has been hit by the high cost of associated with handling the unexpected number of computers returned by its network of more than 200 UK retailers. The biggest problems were with the Sinclair Spectrum and Commodore 64.

Mr Stern, who became a paper millionaire when Spectrum joined the stockmarket, is also conducting a review of the group's newly developed activities including its marketing of fishing tackle and photographic equipment to the retail trade. However, he said that it is unlikely that the material benefits from these measures will be achieved until this autumn.

Tokyo move 'modest'

From Alex Scott
in Brussels
The latest market opening measures announced by the Japanese Government on Tuesday have received a polite but impatient response from the EEC Commission. In an official statement released in Brussels yesterday, the new measures were described as "modest in scope and uncertain in their consequences."

The Trade Commissioner, Mr Willy de Clercq, pointed out that the Commission therefore expects the Japanese Government to take effective steps to reduce the \$11 billion EEC deficit on trade with Japan. "Given the importance currently being attached by the Japanese Government to its bilateral trade relations with the EEC," said the Commissioner, "an apparent absence of a substantial response to the requests made by the European Commission is a source of serious concern."

Banks calm in savings storm

From Alex Brummer
in Washington
The turmoil among America's financial institutions gave the foreign exchanges new cause for concern yesterday, with the dollar taking some heavy punishment. The latest speculation was that an Oklahoma bank is in trouble, although this was quickly denied by the authorities.

But the difficulty in assessing the real costs of banking problems was fully on display yesterday when it was disclosed that the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation — which guarantees deposits in federally supervised banks — may lose some \$395 million as a result of the 1983 failure of Mr Jake Butcher's United American Bank of Knoxville.

Furthermore, the ramifications of last month's crisis among the Ohio savings and loans is still being felt. Although the problem has dropped from public view, some half of the 70 savings institutions in the state still remain closed to normal business. Partly, the savings institutions in the state are being taken care of by the big New York banks which have seen the run as an opportunity to move in on an important industrial state, from which they were previously barred by interstate banking rules.

Chase Manhattan of New York announced yesterday that it is to pay some £7.4 million to buy the Mentor saving bank of Mentor and the Federal Savings Bank of Cincinnati. The bank has assets of some \$114 million and Federated some \$53 million. "We see these acquisitions as a first step in helping resolve the savings and loan problem in Ohio," Chase said.

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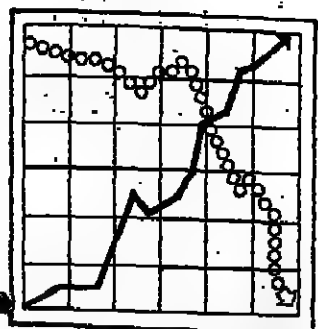
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The rich push the poor out of work



ECONOMICS

Christopher Huhne

EVERYONE should be now fully aware that the Government believes that unemployment is the fault of the unemployed—they or their unions priced themselves out of jobs.

The only snag with this politically convenient view is that the evidence suggests something entirely different. If anything, over the last few years, it has been the rich who have priced the poor out of jobs.

The earnings figures in the chart have important implications for government policy on unemployment, as revealed in all its lack of splendour in the budget and the White Paper "Employment: The Challenge for the Nation". The conclusion that the rich have been getting big pay rises while the poor get small ones cuts right across the traditional debate about wages between Keynesians and neo-classicals.

Both schools think wages are crucial. On the Keynesian view, high money wage increases cause inflation, which the Government can only combat with direct measures like incomes policy or by depressing the economy and letting unemployment rise.

On the neo-classical view, an excessive increase in real wages after allowing for price rises—pushes workers out of jobs directly in the same way that high prices cut demand for bananas.

But both views have traditionally been formulated in the aggregate, looking at the whole economy and have told us little about where the wage pressure may be coming from. The conventional wisdom among right wingers has been that the low paid have been a large cause of the problem. The supposed evidence being that they were hardest hit by unemployment. Thus almost all

the measures so far announced are designed to "free up" the labour market at the bottom end by easing workers into low paid jobs.

But the figures show that the wage problem is almost entirely at the top of the income distribution, where people have been romping away with hefty increases in money in real terms.

The policy of hitting the low paid is therefore likely to be both inefficient—in that it won't tackle the problem—and, deeply inequitable—it will have the effect of depressing the real wages of the low paid even further.

Yet hit the low paid the Government almost certainly will. The restructuring of National Insurance contributions whereby the low paid now face lower graduated rates of contribution, payable on all their income when they pass the thresholds, will make it cheaper to employ the young and unskilled.

But it will make it a lot more expensive to give them pay rises in return for upskilling or seniority, as Professors King and Atkinson argued in the Guardian of March 22.

The provision whereby sacked employees will have to have been in a job for two years before they lodge a complaint, for unfair dismissal, could too easily become a charter for keeping the low paid on their toes despite their meagre rewards, while the abolition of at least teeth-drawing of the wages councils, which set legal minimum wages, will also tend to reduce low-paid wages.

The Government's attitude towards the wages councils—where the poor appear to be made scapegoats for our economic problems.

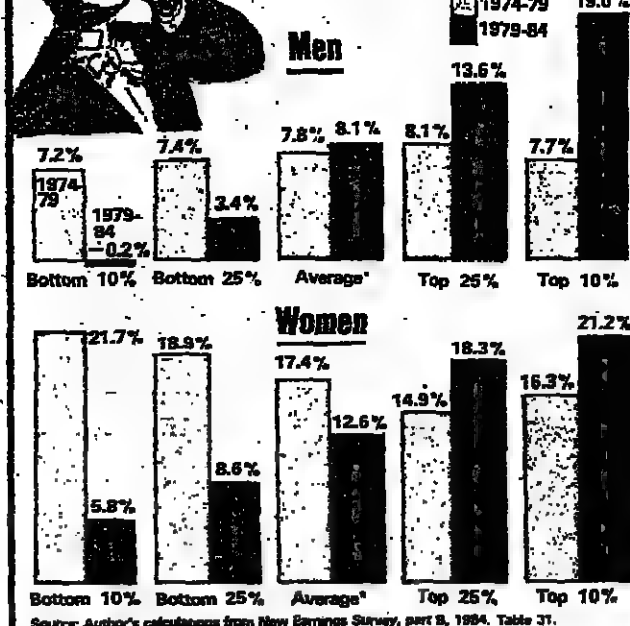
Certainly, there are perfectly good grounds for abolition of the councils. At the moment, it is probable that some people who would otherwise be unemployed will find low-paid work.

But this effect is not going to be substantial, as a background study prepared for—but not yet published by—the Department of Employment shows. The report on the wages councils covering the retail trades concludes that "very few of the firms we surveyed volunteered the view that the level of pay on its own was an important determinant of their employment policy."

It's the poor who gets the blame...

Real wage increases/decreases by income group

Gross hourly earnings before tax divided by the Retail Price Index. The average is a median. Full-time adults only.



"It was their wage-bill in relation to their ability to pay determined by the state of their trade to which they drew our attention rather than the level of pay per se. The vast majority re-emphasised this by anticipating an increase in their employment only if trade increased."

The Government's own cumulative paper on the wages councils shows that only one million of the 2.75 million workers covered by wages councils are actually paid the minimum decreed rates. The rest were paid more.

True, there are other reasons for abolishing wages councils. There is little point in having a wage floor effectively imposed by the social security system and another one expensively administered by the Wages Inspectorate.

On grounds of equity, it also makes sense to concentrate help to the poor through the benefits system as many of the low paid are in fact second earners in households and poverty tends to be determined more by special needs—such as those of large families—rather than low pay.

But the "New Right" wants to erode the benefits system too. Indeed, the Treasury is looking for savings from the Fowler reviews of social security. It is of course possible to eliminate unemployment by eliminating benefits, particularly since the Government now defines unemployment by those claiming benefits. People could be starved back to work. But the object of the benefit system is to reduce poverty, and no sane person can seriously argue that rises in benefits have been the cause of the record increase in unemployment since 1979.

The figures in the bar chart seem to me to be appallingly telling. The top 10 per cent of the full time adult male earners increased their real gross hourly earnings (after allowing for price rises) by 18 per cent between April 1979 and April 1984 composed of a 9.43 per cent rise in cash hourly earnings and a 63.3 per cent rise in retail prices.

The bottom 10 per cent got a real wage cut of 0.2 per cent, with the bottom 10 per cent of manual workers taking a 1.5 per cent real wage cut.

I have deliberately used gross hourly earnings in the bar chart, instead of weekly earnings, to avoid any accusation that the figures might be overtly biased by changes in overtime working. The figures are all from the Government's own New Earnings Survey, based on a sample of more than 49,000 people so that the likely statistical error is small.

Though there was a slight change in definition in 1982, the Department of Employment's statisticians do not believe it to be significant. (After 1982, the crude figures refer to all people on adult rates, as opposed to men over 21 and women over 18.)

The figures show that it is a cruel confidence trick to pretend that the poor are to blame for our unemployment, and a mockery of reasoned analysis to concentrate on the wages of the "employment measures" on hitting the groups of people who have already done most to save their jobs by curbing their ambitions for higher pay. In this market, it is the weak who have gone to the wall.

On either a Keynesian or a neo-classical view, the real question is how to get all of us to limit our wage increases, not how to accelerate a decline in the lot of the employed or unemployed poor who have already suffered enough for others' unchecked greed.

One answer is an incomes policy of sorts to ensure that increases in demand are channelled into jobs not pay. Until the Chancellor comes up with a convincing alternative, his budget for jobs will remain ill-named and self-serving sham.

"Pay and Employment in Four Retired Trades" by Christine Craig and Frank Wilkinson, DAE Labour Studies Group University of Cambridge.

that they will produce their own engines.

ARG is thought to be planning to manufacture 80,000 "BX" models for itself in the UK, and 10,000 "HX" versions for Honda to sell in the European market as a fully-fledged European Community produced car. In Japan, Austin Rover will have an initial 10,000 models of the "BX" built by Honda, largely for sale in Japan but also for export to the Australian market in particular, while Honda admits to producing a conservative 45,000 units of its "HX" version for sale in its domestic market.

Given that the annual Japanese new car market is an excess of 3 million vehicles, and the UK alone in excess of 1.7 million, the initial production targets for the "XX" are tiny. In some ways, Austin Rover's attack on Japan could even be seen as the most significant. Last year, only 42,000 foreign built cars were sold in Japan, of which 33,000 were West German de luxe Mercedes, Porsche and BMW models.

But the impact on the UK car manufacturing industry will, in reality, prove far more significant. BL has capacity to make 70,000 vehicles a year but is producing 300,000 units less than its maximum capacity. Certainly, if the "XX" project proves free of snags, then Honda is not going to spend heavily to build a new production capacity when ARG's Cowley and Longbridge plants are open.

But increased domestic manufacture by Nissan, and by Honda through the ARG outlets, could simply result in Japanese producers taking a greater share of the UK market at the expense of the established domestic groups, Ford, Vauxhall and BL itself, by bypassing the import restrictions on the British car market while creating new jobs within the motor industry.

On the other hand, Nissan production facility, and the increased involvement of Honda with BL, leads to UK manufacturers gaining a larger slice of the European market overall, then the establishment of Japanese manufacturing capabilities in Britain could lead to a regeneration of the domestic car industry, and the creation of more jobs, both directly and indirectly.

But the most revolutionary development could be the changes rung in British industrial relations. It is expected that Nissan will announce later this month that its workers will have single union representation, probably the EPTU, providing the springboard for the go-ahead for its phase two production plant.

Whether the unions' in their short-term anxiety to encourage new employment in the North East, have weighed the consequences of their espousal of Japanese style industrial relations, remains to be seen.



SIMPLY SUCCESSFUL: Tom Watson starts his challenge for a third US Masters title today. Picture by Kenneth Saunders

David Davies reports from Augusta

Watch for Watson

GOLF

Tom Watson, twice a winner, has the secret to playing the Augusta National Golf Club and taking the US Masters title. "All you have to do," he says, "is hit the ball with a touch of draw, make the putts and avoid the water. You just have to miss the aqua here."

A simple formula, but then

in golf genius is simplicity; and Watson, at times, possesses both. For that reason he is the strong favourite to take his third Masters—this year's event starts today—although Severiano Ballesteros is not far behind him.

Both of them have the ability to make the most of the par-3s at Augusta, where the big hitters can get up in two, and both of them rank with the great putters. Watson, in

addition to winning, has finished no worse than 12th since 1977, and has three seconds, a fourth and a fifth to go with it.

Ballesteros also has two green jackets, and the general consensus, even among the intensely parochial American professionals, is that he has the ability to be the best in the world. But his record when not winning does not compare with that of Watson, and he depends a great deal more on inspiration than do his championship-winning contemporaries.

Ballesteros, whose birthday it was on Tuesday, appears a relaxed man this week, in the past presentation for victory. This is one of his laid-back, easy-going, and while you might not bet against Watson this week, you certainly would not against Ballesteros either.

In a pre-tournament survey, four British golf writers selected, in order, Ballesteros, Watson, Bernard Langer, Jack Nicklaus, Greg Norman and Fuzzy Zoeller as their choices for the tournament.

Langer has been the most successful. Ballesteros, excepted, of the Europeans, but to think of him this week is to think of the greens, and to see him yesterday, torturing again with four putters by his side on the practice putting greens. The greens are slick, getting slicker, and no place to be for a man with doubts.

The same goes for Sandy Lyle who yesterday committed Tony Jacklin over his poor putting in Greensboro. Jacklin passed on the tip that Bert Yancey gave him before Jacklin won the US Open in 1970: line up the putt, step up to the ball and hit it without further ado.

As this could be a description of Lyle's normal approach, it may not be too helpful, and certainly on the first green yesterday he left a 16-footer his usual six inches short.

There is a serious doubt about Norman being able to play. He has been suffering from a virus and was unable to go to the course on Tuesday. He could miss the season's first championship. Should he play, however, he could be more dangerous than ever, for the old adage about a wounded gorilla being the most effective one frequently runs true.

Torrance played a practice round with Arnold Palmer and later described it as being the most important part of his preparations. Palmer pointed out a few lines that had not been obvious to me, and which will be of great help.

In general, championships are won by experienced competitors, and Tom Kite is certainly that. He was in a good position to win last year, leading after three rounds, but could do nothing about the way Ben Crenshaw putted in the final round.

Winning respect

THE SIGHT of a golfer surrounded by a gaggle of hunters is a common one at the US Masters. But when the golfer is black, the fans are white and the location is Augusta, Georgia, in the Deep South, then that represents a welcome change.

This year Calvin Peete is playing in his sixth Masters and, he says, feels at home for the first time. "That old saying that golf is a white man's game is long gone," he says. "I used to feel very intimidated when I came here. Intimidated with the greens, the galleries, even with the press. I felt there was no way I could have a good tournament."

Two years ago he was heckled, the word "nigger" was used, and Peete, clearly upset, missed the cut. "Now I feel much more relaxed," he says. "Being black doesn't motivate me to win here. I've passed the stage of wanting to be an excellent black player. I just want to be respected by my peers."

Since his win in the Tournament Players Championship of course, that respect has been freely given, for all America believes that the field for that event is the strongest in the world. Peete, aged 41, believes he is playing better than ever after a winter regime of lifting weights and jogging. He has gained length, and thinks that that gives him a real chance at Augusta.

AS JAPAN promises yet again to take measures to open its doors wider to foreign imports, the most immediately sensitive area of its trading activities with the UK is likely to prove the next stage of Japanese manufacturers' assault on the domestic car market.

Two of the top Japanese car makers, Nissan and Honda, are scheduled to begin their first UK production operations within the next year. The initial production activities, however, are likely to be in relation to the overall market and can only be regarded as pilot schemes which could pave the way for more concrete manufacturing investments.

But at this stage, it seems almost certain that it will be Nissan which pushes ahead with a full-scale manufacturing plant in the UK while Honda, despite rumours to the contrary, will restrict its British involvement to the launch of a new model for the Austin Rover Group, rather than building its own production facility at the Swindon site it has bought.

By a "gentlemen's agreement," Japan's car makers currently limit their exports to the UK to an 18 per cent market share. Production plants in the UK would be the base not for an out-and-out attack on the British market, but as the launching pad for an increased sales drive into the European Community where, in general, the Japanese are restricted to a far lower market share than in the UK itself.

Full manufacturing facilities in the UK with the vehicles being produced having an 80 per cent local content, would allow groups like Nissan to sell freely within the Community.

Nissan's first phase of development, the establishment of a car assembly plant at Washington, Co Durham, due to come on stream next June, will not increase its access to either the UK or Community markets. The assembly plant is simply a trail blazer for a full production facility. Employing about 470 workers, it will assemble kits imported from Japan, turning out a modest 24,000 cars a year which will replace current Nissan direct exports from Japan to the UK.

Nissan spokesmen happily confirm that there is no commercial logic in its £30 million assembly plant. It would be more profitable to continue to import vehicles from Japan and that the plant is being established only to set the scene for a full manufacturing operation.

By 1987, the group will decide whether it is feasible to push ahead with phase one, a manufacturing plant employing 2,700 workers and turning out 100,000 vehicles a year. Even then, Nissan admits, might not be truly commercial and phase two in turn would need to be followed by a further expansion to a plant making at least 200,000 vehicles a year for the Japanese group to make a mean-



Nissan executives... hoping to ring the changes in industrial relations

Japanese car makers plan a trail-blazing campaign in Britain. David Simpson reports

Setting the scene for an all-out assault

ingful increase in its European market share and to obtain a genuine return on its investment.

The trigger for Nissan to proceed with its plans, and it seems almost certain that it will do so, is the industrial relations it is able to establish with the different trade unions to be employed at Washington.

While many other Japanese concerns have set up shop in the UK, Nissan is the first to employ members of several trade unions, and its success in negotiating an industrial relations agreement closer to the traditional Japanese single plant, single union system will not only ultimately determine whether phase two is approved but could govern the level of future Japanese inward investment to the UK.

A spokesman at Nissan's Tokyo headquarters spelled out the four conditions the group is seeking: good industrial relations; equal representation; equal opportunity for promotion; and flexibility in working practices.

"If these objectives cannot be agreed, the plant will be a failure," he said. But Nissan is confident its aims can be achieved and that phase two will proceed, with phase two will proceed, with a £800 million minimum investment, including the in-

stallation of the most advanced available robotic systems. Nissan's determination to move into full production in the UK is endorsed by the fact that it has won a six per cent share of the UK market, but that of the total 240,000 cars it sold in the Community last year, 102,000 were bought in Britain. If its cars can be so greatly in demand in the UK, it argues, then it can overcome the EC trade barriers, there must be equally strong markets in other Common Market countries.

Honda sees matters in a very different light. There have been strong rumours that the group, the last of the large Japanese industrial corporations to enter car manufacturing on a large scale, and the one most dependent upon export sales, will build a full production plant at Swindon.

Honda pours cold water on the idea. A Tokyo spokesman laid out the two main criteria Honda employs in deciding whether it should build a manufacturing plant. One is that there must be an identifiable local market for its cars, the other is that it must be certain it can earn sufficient profits.

As far as either the UK or the Common Market was concerned, the spokesman said, there is no evidence of any real demand for the type of cars which Honda makes, as the market for the smaller more compact cars in which it specialises is already satisfied by European producers.

Like Nissan, Honda is insistent that the volume of cars produced must be considerable if a manufacturing operation is to be viable. Honda has built, and is expanding, a highly profitable new plant in the US and has now decided to build a plant in Canada. This factory will initially turn out 40,000 vehicles a year, but Honda states that this level of production would not in itself be profitable, were it not for the cost-savings to be supplied through linking the plant with the US factory.

Instead, Honda's siege, as such, on the EEC market seems destined to be conducted through closer links with BL's car making subsidiary, Austin Rover Group. The most significant venture to date between the two is the joint production of the executive car, code-named "XX" to be jointly built in Britain and Japan.

The Honda version, named "HX" will be launched this autumn with ARG's "BX" version following in the first half of 1986. The cars will share a chassis, but the body will be different, while the two groups have now more or less finally decided

that they will produce their own engines.

ARG is thought to be planning to manufacture 80,000 "BX" models for itself in the UK, and 10,000 "HX" versions for Honda to sell in the European market as a fully-fledged European Community produced car.

In Japan, Austin Rover will have an initial 10,000 models of the "BX" built by Honda, largely for sale in Japan but also for export to the Australian market in particular, while Honda admits to producing a conservative 45,000 units of its "HX" version for sale in its domestic market.

Given that the annual Japanese new car market is an excess of 3 million vehicles, and the UK alone in excess of 1.7 million, the initial production targets for the "XX" are tiny. In some ways, Austin Rover's attack on Japan could even be seen as the most significant. Last year, only 42,000 foreign built cars were sold in Japan, of which 33,000 were West German de luxe Mercedes, Porsche and BMW models.

But the impact on the UK car manufacturing industry will, in reality, prove far more significant. BL has capacity to make 70,000 vehicles a year but is producing 300,000 units less than its maximum capacity. Certainly, if the "XX" project proves free of snags, then Honda is not going to spend heavily to build a new production capacity when ARG's Cowley and Longbridge plants are open.

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THIS WEEK'S EASTER PAYOUT
INCLUDES
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BBC-1

6.00 am Cee-fax AM. 6.50 Breakfast Time. 9.20 Battle of the Planets. 9.40 The Monkeys. 10.50 Why Don't You... 11.30 The School. 12.50 Bonanza. 1.40 Kops - a Rock for all Seasons. 2.30 pm News After Noon. 2.57 Regional News. 1.00 Pele Mill At One. 1.45 Trumpton. 2.00 Racing from Cheltenham. 3.40 Cartoon Double Bill. 3.53 Regional News (except London and Scotland). 3.55 Mop and Sniff. 4.10 Ivor the Engine. 4.15 Jigsaw. 4.30 Bonanza. 4.35 Dogland and the Three Musketeers. 5.00 John Craven's Newsround. 5.50 Blue Peter. Cee-fax sub-titles. 5.55 Dr Kildare.

6.00 NEWS: Weather News.
6.35 REGIONAL NEWS MAGAZINES.
7.00 EASTENDERS: Cee-fax sub-titles.

7.30 TOMORROW'S WORLD. Presenter Howard Stablesford joins the science and technology team, as the returning series reports on a possible bubble solution to the Bermuda Triangle riddle.

7.55 TOP OF THE POPS. A live edition, introduced by John Peel and Janice Long.
8.30 A QUESTION OF SPORT. Bill Beaumont and Emylin Hughes lead out their celebrity teams for the last innings of the quiz series. David Coleman puts the questions. Cee-fax sub-titles.

9.00 NEWS: Weather News.

9.25 I WOKE UP ONE MORNING. Will a knees-up be the same without a drink to oil the wheels? Michael Angelis, Frederick Jaeger, Robert Gillespie and Peter Cuffey are the drying-out clinic inmates, nervously preparing for a social evening with their female fellow patients.

9.55 COVER UP. If you've been wondering what new games your interest and licence fee would buy, keep wondering. Like whether they shouldn't be paying us to watch yet another load of imported tripe in the plastic packaged fantasy tradition of Remington Steele, Scarecrow and Mrs King... This one, which promises to be even worse, starts with a feature length opening sequence to anyone who cares how this glamorous fashion photographer and this male model-cum-explosives expert come to be using international photo assignments as a cover for their real jobs in - you should pardon the expression - Intelligence. Cee-fax sub-titles.

11.25 ROCKSCHOOL. More re-run advice for rock musicians in the making. 11.50 Weather: close.

Wales: 5.55-6.00 pm Wales Today. 6.55-7.00 Dr Kildare. 8.30-9.00 Week to Week out.
Northern Ireland: 5.55 pm The Sport. 5.40-6.00 Inside Ulster. 6.55-7.00 Dr Kildare.

BBC-2

6.30-7.00 am Open University. 9.00 Pages from Cee-fax. 2.30 pm Film: Go Chase Yourself. 1938 comedy with Lucille Ball, Joe Penner. 3.40 Racing from Cheltenham. 4.30 Conversations with Willard Van Dyke.

5.25 NEWS with sub-titles; weather.

5.30 "AND IT'S CHARDSTOCK TO BAT..." And somehow that just has to be the inimitable John Arlott, taking an affectionate look at village cricket rivalry.

6.00 THE INVADERS: Dark Outpost. Roy Thompson leads the antique SF fight against the aliens.

6.50 PHIL SILVERS as Sgt Bilko, in another comedy classic.

7.15 100 GREAT SPORTING MOMENTS: Olga Korbut. Another chance to see the elfin Russian gymnast, star of the 1972 Munich Olympics, in action.

7.25 FUGARD'S PEOPLE. Extracts from his plays, including Statement After an Arrest Under the Immorality Act, and Boesman and Lena, illustrate this portrait of South Africa's radical dramatist Athol Fugard.

8.30 TOPOL'S ISRAEL. Continuing his tour of his homeland with the tint of annual military service required of every Israeli, including international entertainers, Chaim Topol joins a unit on active service in the Lebanon before moving on to rather less sensitive territory round the Sea of Galilee.

9.00 YES MINISTER: The Whisky Fort. Cee-fax sub-titles.

9.30 FORTY MINUTES: Matters of Life and Death. In one month 15 desperately ill babies have been turned away from Guy's famous Evelina Children's Hospital - out of sight but not out of the minds of a caring and concerned staff who could help them. Harry Weisbloom's film looks at the human cost of government cuts on this one institution: a reduction in specialist staff, a whole ward lying empty, intensive care cots gathering dust.

10.10 JOAN ARMATRADE. Second half of the singer/songwriter's concert recorded at Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre.

11.00 NEWSNIGHT. 11.45 Weatherview. 11.50 ANIMATION NOW: Sing Beast. Another award-winning film from Canada. 12.00 Weekend Outlook. 12.50 Open University. 1.00 Close.

ITV London

6.15 am Good Morning Britain, including (9.00-9.20) Roland's Rat Race. 9.25 News: Sesame Street. 10.25 Cartoon Time. 10.40 Marilyn Baker - Songwriter. 11.10 Fabulous Funnies. 11.30 About Britain. 12.00 Fox Tales. 12.10 pm Mooncat & Co. 12.30 The Sullivan. 1.00 News. 1.20 Home Cookery Club. 2.30 Sons and Daughters. 3.25 News Headlines. 3.30 Sons and Daughters. 4.00 Fox Tales. 4.15 Baffin. 4.20 Wonders in Letterland. 4.45 First Post. 5.00 Dangermouse. 5.15 Thames Sport.



Adam Sunderland, Cheshire schoolboy taking over as presenter of First Post (4.45)

5.45 NEWS: weather.

6.00 THAMES NEWS.

6.25 HELM! with Viv Taylor Gee.

6.35 CROSSROADS.

7.00 ENMERDALE FARM.

7.30 STREET HAWK. Another crime fighting mission for the two wheel tornado (Rex Smith).

8.30 MINDER: The Beer Hunter. In which Arthur's old army mate goes AWOL after a boozy reunion and before a scheduled meeting with his Mrs, which means Arthur and Terry having to scour the

Lower George Cole, Dennis Waterman lead a re-run episode scripted by Willis Hall, with Brian Glover as the missing Yorkie.

9.30 TV EYE.

10.00 NEWS AT TEN: weather.

10.30 KOJAK: Conspiracy of Fear. Telly Savalas as the domed detective in another old cops and robbers tale.

11.30 LOOKS FAMILIAR. Shirley Eaton, Michael Parkinson, and Ernie Wise join Denis Norden to wax nostalgic about the golden age of showbiz.

12.15 NIGHT THOUGHTS with Mary Craig. Close.

Channel 4

2.35 All the Rivers Run. 4.30 The People's Court.

5.00 THE BATTLE OF CHINA. Another fine propaganda film from Frank Capra's Why We Fight series, made in 1944 and continuing the Americans at War. It's followed (6.10) by William Wyler's classic 1944 documentary, The Memphis Belle, recording the bombing of Germany from inside a Flying Fortress on its last raid.

7.00 CHANNEL FOUR NEWS. 7.50 Comment by Tom Hassall, president of the Council for British Archaeology. Weather.

8.00 MIRROR IMAGE - FIAT LUX. Another concert and conversation profile in the pop band series.

9.00 POOKIESACKENBURGER IN RIVER OF LOVE. The Brighton buskers embark on a perilous quest for lost treasure, in the second of their comedy musicals.

9.30 BIRTH OF A NATION. David Lealand's shocking, compelling portrait of life in a modern comprehensive school starts a repeat showing of his acclaimed quartet of films for Central exploring different aspects of education in Britain today. Directed by Mike Newell, it casts Jim Broadbent as the caring teacher whose concern for his disaffected, dole-queue-fodder pupils puts him at odds with a rigidly authoritarian system.

11.00 DESIGN MATTERS: Can't We Live And Let Live? How should we set about having a say in the planning of our communities? The third film in the trio on our relationships with our environment.

11.25 ARE YOU TAKING THE TABLETS? Thou Shalt Have No Other God. Phil Martin chairs this new series from Tynes-Tees in which a guest panel - including this week Oxford scientist and atheist Dr Peter Atkins - assess the relevance of the Ten Commandments to today's society. 11.50. Close.

SAC: 8 pm Silents Please: Orphans of the Storm. With Lilian and Dorothy Gish. 1.25 Alice. 2.00 Falalalam. 2.15 Ewyl. 2.20 Up. 4.15 The Making of Britain. 4.45 Falalalam. 5.00 The Making of Britain. 5.30 Bewitched. 6.00 Bewitched. 6.30 Bewitched. 7.00 Newyddion. 7.30 Ceredigion. 8.00 Cywain. 8.30 Cywain. 9.00 Cywain. 9.30 Cywain. 10.00 Cywain. 10.30 Cywain. 11.00 Cywain. 11.30 Cywain. 12.00 Cywain. 12.30 Cywain. 1.00 Cywain. 1.30 Cywain. 2.00 Cywain. 2.30 Cywain. 3.00 Cywain. 3.30 Cywain. 4.00 Cywain. 4.30 Cywain. 5.00 Cywain. 5.30 Cywain. 6.00 Cywain. 6.30 Cywain. 7.00 Cywain. 7.30 Cywain. 8.00 Cywain. 8.30 Cywain. 9.00 Cywain. 9.30 Cywain. 10.00 Cywain. 10.30 Cywain. 11.00 Cywain. 11.30 Cywain. 12.00 Cywain. 12.30 Cywain. 1.00 Cywain. 1.30 Cywain. 2.00 Cywain. 2.30 Cywain. 3.00 Cywain. 3.30 Cywain. 4.00 Cywain. 4.30 Cywain. 5.00 Cywain. 5.30 Cywain. 6.00 Cywain. 6.30 Cywain. 7.00 Cywain. 7.30 Cywain. 8.00 Cywain. 8.30 Cywain. 9.00 Cywain. 9.30 Cywain. 10.00 Cywain. 10.30 Cywain. 11.00 Cywain. 11.30 Cywain. 12.00 Cywain. 12.30 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